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# After crash, Newark families struggle to rebuild their lives

By Carl Chase  
Staff Writer

NEWARK — Rosella Reese only wanted to know her house was secure before returning to her apartment at 27 Kent St., where she and her neighbors have been displaced from their homes, some for good.

"I'm too old to be moving in and out of any hotel," said the 84-year-old grandmother who raised six boys at this address. "It was God's will that I get up out of that chair by that window. It just blew right out."

Six families remained homeless last week and two dozen more, traumatized by the sudden death and destruction, refuse to go back to their homes at the scene of the tragedy.

But the visible signs were mostly gone, many by the same day as the city moved to help the victims.

That hasn't been so easy. Leaving New Jersey for Washington, D.C. on Nov. 26, Ithaki Jacoby flew the single-engine Beechcraft Bonanza carrying his wife and 13-year-old daughter Atria in dense fog, relying on his instruments.

After distress calls to the airport tower, they all crashed and died instantly as the plane careened down the mostly residential street south of Springfield Avenue, setting cars aflame, blasting out window panes into apartment buildings and sending two residents to intensive care in critical condition. Two dozen others suffered injuries in their homes and elsewhere.

Latrice Wheeler and her husband were asleep at 9 a.m., minutes before the walls and ceiling caved in, dumping plaster and wood splinters on them. "I'm definitely going to need to go to counseling with my children," she said. "My daughter's having a really hard time



Rosella Reese, standing next to her grandson Calvin Reese Jr., expresses concern about the security of her home after the plane crash.

with this. This is a terrible way for anyone to have to wake up. "I'll never sleep the same way again," she added. "Especially not here."

Along with injuries to his face, Alfred Walker suffered first and second-degree burns over 15 percent of his body. He and 29-year-old Rhonda Acay were outside his building when the fireball blew past them, igniting a line of parked cars and blowing some of them up.

Keilhonna Jeter, 12, witnessed the tragedy, and said she was not concerned about any emotional impact.

"She'll say no," her mother Ann Lee said days later. "But she's been sleeping with me and her daddy every night."

She and Wheeler both noted that despite reports to the contrary, this block has never fit the negative image associated with blighted Springfield Avenue. It's not only been quiet

and free of visible drug dealers, but a community spirit fills the whole block off 18 Avenue, said Lee and various residents. "Everyone looks out for everyone else. You can't get that these days just about any neighborhood."

The city raced to prepare apartments for as many as 30 families left shaken and homeless the day after Thanksgiving. They can rent 1-bedroom units for \$425, 2-bed-

rooms for \$500. Five mayoral aides drove through around the city to identify suitable homes. "This is the one we control, that we sort of rushed to make available," James said at 374-376 Hillside Avenue south of Route 78, where a dozen units on three floors were readied for refuge.

Another 10 buildings offer similar shelter at the same price. "If you have a job, savings, monthly rent and rent security, you may walk right in," the city

told residents in need. Otherwise they must ask for rental assistance from the state Division of Homeless Prevention in East Orange, the county welfare office at 18 Sector Street, city welfare at 94 William Street, Temporary Rental Assistance at the same address or the county Division of Citizen Action in East Orange.

James, a state Senator, said the reason Gov. Christie Whitman refused to declare it a disaster area was that the mess was cleaned up before Whitman got there.

"I believe one mistake we made was maybe we cleaned it up too soon," he told reporters in one of the Hillside Avenue apartments. "Maybe it looked too clean."

"She said they can make application to the Governor's Council on Emergency Services. When the people came from Kosovo, did they make application? When they came from Vietnam? This is the United States of America. In a year when we have the largest surplus in the history of New Jersey!"

The city is suing the Jacoby estate and unnamed aviation workers and companies to recoup some of the estimated \$3.2 million cost of restoring the neighborhood.

The city seeks property costs, compensatory and other damages along with interest, attorneys' fees and court costs. "We're not going to be operated, owned, supervised, leased, contracted, maintained, managed and/or inspected the same way," the suit states.

It claims Newark suffered "compensatory damages not limited to (costs for emergency services, police services, fire services, medical services) and costs expended to respond to the incident."

## Little girl dies and Newark teens face homicide charges

By Carl Chase  
Staff Writer

NEWARK — Astarr Johnson, the Newark girl maimed in a fatal auto wreck, died of her injuries, and four local teenagers are charged with various crimes related to the stolen cars involved in the crash.

His death opened the door for a 15- and 17-year-old boy — accused of being in the stolen BMW that hit Davis's small car — to be tried as adults. They were charged with receiving stolen property (the BMW).

Arrested days later were Onesha Hill, 18, of Newark, and Malik Blanford, 19, of East Orange.

They are charged with two counts of vehicular homicide, aggravated manslaughter, receiving stolen property, weapon possession (the car) and seven counts of aggravated assault. In East Orange, who police say was speeding in a stolen black Lexus nearby, Newark's police spokesman Matthew Greimel.

Theonia McKenzie, 25, who had been in critical condition on arrival at the trauma center, was listed in fair condition later last week. Her 9-year-old son Andre, his hip bones fractured, was in stable condition.

Her daughter, Astarr, was still listed as critical with severe head and spinal injuries and a "poor" prognosis.

## Essex County program gets \$151,000 justice grant

NEWARK — Essex County has been awarded \$151,513 by the state Department of Law and Public Safety's Division of Criminal Justice to fund the Essex County Prosecutor's Office for a new Community Justice Program.

The program is slated to begin Jan. 20, 2000.

"The goals of this initiative are to strengthen the collaborative partnership between law enforcement and the community

and to strengthen this partnership through shared responsibility by encouraging the community to become actively involved in this program."

"Law enforcement and prosecuting agencies have a significant role in public safety. Law enforcement cannot do it alone and cannot act in isolation from the law abiding residents of the communities they serve," said Acting Prosecutor Donald Campolo.

The Community Justice

Program will address the problems of race relations in law enforcement, youth violence, school safety and the drug epidemic, Campolo said. "Because of the complexity and persistence of these problems, they demand a coordinated, multi-faceted response," he added.

Twenty percent of all crimes committed in New Jersey occur in Essex County, along with about one-third of violent crimes committed in the state. The

crime rate is largely due to the escalating levels of poverty, homelessness, the proliferation and availability of guns, and the growing disparity between socioeconomic classes characteristic of urban centers, Campolo said.

The 1998 Uniform Crime Report by the New Jersey State Police reports that approximately 17 percent of arrests occurring in Essex County were attributed to its juvenile residents.

Additionally, Essex County Juveniles account for eleven percent of all juvenile arrests made in New Jersey in 1998.

The Community Justice Program will focus on community policing, community human relations, youth mentoring, school violence, and increase public awareness and confidence in the criminal justice system. "We hope to improve the quality of life for the citizens in Essex County," Campolo said.

## Advocacy groups find children's future in jeopardy

By Janelle Carter

WASHINGTON (AP) — Teen pregnancy, abuse and neglect at home, inadequate child care, poor schools and lack of health care are among the biggest dangers threatening America's children, according to a new report from a coalition of urban and child advocacy groups.

The report, "Ten Critical Threats To America's Children: Warning Signs for the Next Millennium," also lists such threats as substance abuse, poverty, absent parents, crime and dangers in the environment.

The study is the work of the

National School Boards Association, the National League of Cities, Hollywood, Fla.-based Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital and the Youth Crime Watch of America. It was released today at a news conference in Washington, D.C.

"The problems confronting our children truly are challenges to all of America," said Mary Ellen Maxwell, president of the National School Boards Association. "Either we meet these challenges or they will become obstacles to our future."

Dr. Arnold Tanis, a fellow in the American Academy of Pediatrics, said, "We want to see these issues addressed, and one way to do it is make people

aware of them and begin a national dialogue."

The threats, which are not ranked, were compiled through research and interviews with experts, child advocacy organizations and government agencies. Research was collected from a variety of documents including the Census Bureau's Income and Poverty Report for 1998, the 1999 Child Welfare League of America Staff Book and several studies by the National Center for Education Statistics.

According to the report, 14.5 million children — nearly 1 in 5 — live in poverty. During 1997, 3.2 million children were referred to authorities as

abused and neglected. Last year, 11.1 million children younger than 18 had no health insurance. And each year, 3 million American teens are infected with AIDS, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Each of the 10 threats is listed with possible solutions — like raising the minimum wage and universal health care.

Participants said they hoped the issues would begin debate among presidential candidates and local communities.

"This is America's challenge," said Clarence Anthony, president of the National League of Cities and mayor of South Bay, Fla. "It's an agenda for action."

Jon Sachs, spokesman for the coalition which put together the report, said its purpose was to raise awareness of the problems, not to advance specific legislation.

"What these groups have done is to say there needs to be a national agenda on children's issues," Sachs said. "These problems are not new. They are chronic; they are pervasive."

Anthony said the report is intended to prompt sense solutions to problems.

"This report is not about gloom and doom — it's about the obstacles our children face and embracing a national agenda that will benefit them in the next millennium," Anthony said.

## Prudential CEO leads groups to support higher educational standards

TRENTON — The New Jersey Department of Education this year officially launched a new series of assessment tests that reflect higher school standards. In light of these tests Co-Chairs Arthur F. Ryan, Chairman and CEO of Prudential and Alfred L. Cade, Chairman of the New Jersey Commission of Higher Education, recently announced the founding members of New Jersey United for Higher School Standards, a statewide alliance comprised of representatives from the business, community, education and nonprofit organizations

advocating academic excellence.

More than 25 of New Jersey's leading organizations have joined New Jersey United for Higher School Standards in support of the New Jersey Department of Education's new Core Curriculum Content Standards and Assessments.

The test scores from the Elementary School Proficiency Assessment and Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment test are in and revealed in math that 38 percent of students are partially proficient; 43 percent proficient; and 19 percent advanced profi-

cient. The ESPA scores hovered within one-to-three percentage points of the GEPA scores in the same area. Language arts scores in the GEPA indicated 71 percent of students were proficient and in science the scores of the ESPA indicated 52 percent proficiency among students. There were the only two areas where New Jersey students scored above 50 percent.

"Previous assessments served their purposes," said New Jersey Education Commissioner David Heape. "But they can no longer serve as a basis of comparison on student

achievement. Previous content and assessment are no longer rigorous enough to fulfill the mandate of the Legislature and the State Board of Education that we prepare students for the toughest demands of college and the workplace in the 21st Century."

On the heels of the new mandate, New Jersey United for Higher School Standards will host a series of town meetings to help explain the value of the new standards and assessments and stress the importance of parental participation in a child's educational develop-

ment.

"Today's society is creating challenges for all of us in many aspects of our lives," says Ryan. "We must ensure that tomorrow's adults are prepared to succeed in their careers, in their communities and with their families."

The organization was established to help better communicate a complete understanding of the Core Curriculum Content Standards and Assessments and to assist parents in accessing programs that will help their children reach higher levels of proficiency.

# Community Calendar

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

**JERSEY CITY** — New Jersey City University hosts a two-day Kwanzaa celebration through Dec. 9 at the school's Michael Gilgins Student Union. Call (201) 800-3460 for information.

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

**PLAINFIELD** — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center hosts a holiday craft sale 12 p.m. (908) 753-3506.

**SOUTH ORANGE** — The Gallery of South Orange hosts its annual holiday craft and quilt sale through Dec. 12, 12 p.m. (973) 578-7754.

**NEWARK** — The Newark Literacy Campaign, Inc. hosts a training session for reading volunteer tutors at the Newark Public Library 6 p.m. (973) 623-4001.

**BERKLEY HEIGHTS** — RUINELL'S Specialized Hospital Volunteer Guild hosts its annual holiday bazaar show-case 9 a.m. (908) 771-5730.

**LINCROFT** — The Monmouth County Park System hosts a two session program in creating sash ornaments for the holidays at the Thompson Park Craft Center 4:30 p.m. (732) 842-4000.

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — The New Jersey State Bar Foundation hosts a seminar on automobile insurance. (732) 937-7518.

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — The New Jersey State Bar Foundation hosts a public seminar on long term health care at the New Jersey Law Center 1 p.m. (732) 937-7518.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

**PLAINFIELD** — A holiday performance and luncheon by the students of Gill St. Barnard's comes to the Plainfield Senior Citizens Center 12 p.m. (908) 753-3506.

**WAYNE** — Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher gives a lecture on the challenges of the 21st century at William Paterson University 8 p.m. (973) 720-2444.

**ORANGE** — The family and friends of Barbara Chese invites you to her retirement luncheon at the Appian Way Restaurant 12:30 p.m. (973) 678-0313.

**NEWARK** — The Newark Public Library hosts a discussion on the steps of becoming a doctor, part of the library's Community Health Information Project (CHIP) program. The event takes place at the library's Springfield branch 3:30 p.m. (973) 733-7798.

**FREEDHOLD** — SingleFaces, Inc. hosts a singles function at the American Hotel 9 p.m. (732) 462-2466.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

**SADDLE BROOK** — SingleFaces, Inc. hosts a singles function at the Holiday Inn 9 p.m. (732) 462-2466.

**SOMERSET** — First Baptist Community Development Corporation hosts a housing fair for new home buyers 1 p.m. Call (732) 247-4592 for information.

**SHREWSBURY** — The Monmouth County Park system invites youngsters for an introduction course in gymnastics at the Shrewsbury Gymnastic School. Call (732) 842-4000 for information.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

**ISELIN** — SingleFaces, Inc. hosts a singles function at the Woodbridge Sheraton 8 p.m. (732) 462-2466.

**NEW YORK** — The Studio Museum in Harlem hosts a gallery talk of contemporary art in transition 3 p.m. (212) 694-4500.

**LINCROFT** — The Monmouth County Park System hosts a ski clinic for new skiers at the Thompson Park Activity Center 10 a.m. (732) 842-4000.

**PISCATAWAY** — The East Jersey Old Towne Village hosts a Colonial Food Workshop 1 p.m. (732) 745-3030.

**MIDDLETOWN** — The Monmouth County Park System hosts a holiday show for children at the Tatum Park Hill Activity Center 2 p.m. (732) 842-4000.

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

**JERSEY CITY** — New Jersey City University (NJCU) hosts its lecture series featuring author and professor Lori Gunter at the school's Hieppum Hall. Call (201) 200-3426 for information.

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

**NEWARK** — The Newark Literacy Campaign, Inc. hosts a training session for reading volunteer tutors at the Newark Public Library 6 p.m. (973) 623-4001.

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

**NEWARK** — Assemblyman William Payne and the City of Newark hosts a winter coat donation drive at the Assemblyman's office through Dec. 19 9 a.m. (973) 621-1400.

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

**NEWARK** — 1,000 Friends hosts its "Friends of Education Luncheon" featuring guest speaker Dr. John Grisco, Superintendent of Bergen County's Vocational School district at the Newark Club 12 p.m. (973) 621-0521.

**NEWARK** — The Newark Public Library hosts a pre-Kwanzaa celebration 6 p.m. (973) 733-7798.

# Students of Newark's "Do Something" transform communities and schools



**NEWARK** — Recently the students of Newark's "Do Something Team" helped their schools and communities look better in an area wide clean-up program. The students, representing four Newark elementary schools (Alexander Street, Belmont Runyon, Cleveland and Ridge Street), took part in pick-up trash and offering supplies to families less fortunate. This the second event of the school year for Newark's "Do Something's" Community Coach Program, which offers leadership and community service program that mobilizes specially-trained teachers designated as "coaches" to teach students leadership skills and to help them design and implement their own service projects to improve their schools and neighborhoods.

## Bradley gets a shot in the arm from Clara Maass



**BELLEVILLE** — Democratic presidential candidate Bill Bradley (left) keeps a stiff upper lip as he receives a flu vaccination from Gail Beyer, R.N., community health manager at Clara Maass Medical Center. Bradley, along with his staff received the vaccination at his campaign headquarters in West Orange. Throughout the month of October and November Clara Maass administered both flu and pneumonia shots on-site to local corporations and organizations. Clara Maass Medical Center provides a complete continuum of care to residents of Northern New Jersey.

## S.C.O.R.E. awards scholarship to NJCU student



**JERSEY CITY** — Faisal Fahimullah (left), a senior major in accounting and marketing at New Jersey City University, was recently awarded a scholarship for excellence in business studies by the Service Corps of Retired Executives (S.C.O.R.E.) Peter Nachbur (left), a S.C.O.R.E. International trade representative and Charles A. Schwein, S.C.O.R.E. scholarship chair, presented the scholarship plaque to Mr. Fahimullah who maintains a grade point average of 3.80 and holds an associate of arts degree in music industry and business from Miami Dade Community College. Also present are Marilyn Ellinger, chair of the NJCU Department of Business Administration and Dr. Larry Carter (center), NJCU vice president for academic affairs.

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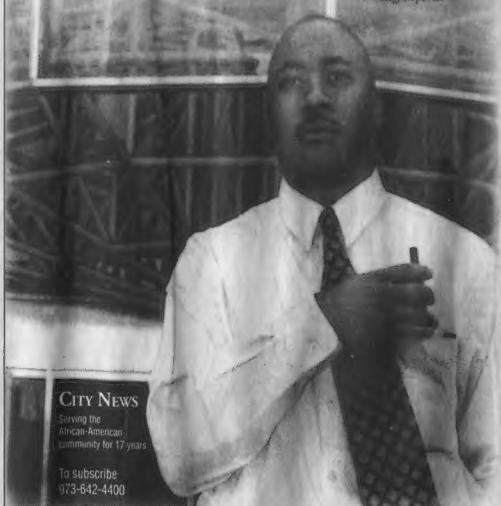
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## CITY NEWS

Being a reporter for City News allows me to interact with the people. I think I provide a service by telling stories that people are concerned about. My favorite story was about friends, all of whom grew up together and after years, remain close and support each other.

Jean Pierre  
Staff Reporter



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## NATIONAL BRIEF

### HUD BUILDING NAMED FOR FIRST BLACK CABINET SECRETARY

(NNPA) — Representative Charles Rangel (D-NY), who championed the effort, recently announced the final passage of legislation to name the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) building after the late Robert C. Weaver, the first African-American Cabinet Secretary.

The bill was passed in the House by a unanimous consent on Nov. 18, the last day of legislative business before the end of the first session of the 106th Congress. The measure was approved in the Senate on March 23. The White House has not announced the date of the signing by President Clinton.

"This is a long-overdue expression of the nation's gratitude for Robert Weaver's contributions," Rangel said. "He not only blazed a trail for African Americans to serve at the highest levels of government, he was the architect of Lyndon Johnson's Great Society which benefited all forgotten Americans."

Weaver was a Harvard University trained economist who specialized in labor, urban renewal and federal aid to education. In President John F. Kennedy's Administration, he served as administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, the predecessor of HUD. Weaver began his career in 1933 as an advisor on Black Affairs for the Department of the Interior. After service in Washington, he was named president of Bernard M. Baruch College of the City University of New York.

### NAACP ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR SPINGARN MEDAL RECIPIENT

(NNPA) — Nominations are currently being accepted for the NAACP's 85th Spingarn Medal. Instituted in 1914 by former NAACP Chairman J.E. Spingarn, the award recognizes the "highest and noblest achievement" by an African American. Nominations must include a detailed current biographical profile of the nominee that highlights relevant activities and achievements.

Supporting and verifying documents, news clips and honors should also be enclosed. Address entries to: The Spingarn Medal Award Committee, Attn: Chairman's Office, 4805 Mt. Hope Drive, Baltimore, Md. 21215. All nominations must be postmarked on or before Dec. 31. The final selection is made by a Committee of Award, which is selected by the Board of Directors. To date, medal recipients have included: Earl G. Graves, Governor L. Douglas Wilder, The Reverend Jesse Jackson, Percy E. Sutton, Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, Maysie Angelou, John Hope Franklin, Carl Rowan, Bill Cosby and NAACP Chairman Emeritus Myrtle Evers-Williams.

### U.S. LAWMAKERS WANT NEW LABELS ON FOOD

WASHINGTON (IPS) — A group of U.S. lawmakers said today that they planned to introduce legislation to require the mandatory labeling of all food containing trace amounts of genetically engineered products. Called the "Genetically Engineered Food Fight to Know Act," the proposed bill would oppose the current U.S. regulatory position that genetically modified foods are no different than other food products. The bill would include the labeling of meat, dairy and poultry products. Foods that contain milk from a cow injected with genetically engineered hormones, for example, would be labeled as produced with genetically engineered material. The 20 lawmakers said the wide presence of genetic engineering in today's foods posed certain health risks, including increased toxicity, increased exposure to allergens and antibiotic resistance. "Today's limited scientific knowledge warrants allowing consumers to make a better, more informed choice," Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio). He said he was working with Senators on parallel labeling legislation.

## Smithsonian to honor educator and anthropologist Johnnetta B. Cole

WASHINGTON — The Smithsonian Institution will present the John P. McGovern Behavioral Science Award to anthropologist Johnnetta Cole in recognition of her many contributions to furthering understanding of American family life. The public program will take place on Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m. Cole will share her vision of what family means in contemporary American society. She will discuss the myriad ways in which families are formed today, commenting on moving beyond racial, ethnic and religious differences, and what these variations in family dynamics tell us about American culture. The program is presented by The Smithsonian Association.

Cole began her college studies at the age of 15 when she entered Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, in an early admission program. She completed her undergraduate degree at Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, and earned a doctorate in anthropology from Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois. Cole's outstanding work in the fields of anthropology and education paved the way for her appointment as the first African American woman to serve as president of Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia, since its founding in 1881. Her teaching and research in the areas of cultural anthropology, African American studies,



Johnnetta B. Cole

and women's studies, support her efforts for people of color and women throughout the world. In 1998, Cole was appointed by President Bill Clinton to an 11-member commission on the celebration of women in American history. In 1999, she was appointed to Georgia Gov. Roy E. Barnes' "Governor's Education Reform Study Commission."

Cole has received honorary degrees from 43 colleges and universities including Yale and Columbia. She is the recipient of

numerous awards, including the Eleanor Roosevelt Education Achievement Award, the T. S. Africa Forum Global Public Service Award and the Radcliffe Medal.

The Smithsonian Associates is the educational and membership arm of the Smithsonian Institution. During its 30-year history, TSA has come to be recognized as the nation's largest and most esteemed museum-based continuing education and study tour program.

## Few African Americans know the census will be taken next year

WASHINGTON — With only four months to go before the 2000 census begins, a nonpartisan, nationwide study conducted for the U.S. Census Monitoring Board has determined that only 30 percent African Americans are even aware that the decennial population count will be taken next year as compared to only 42 percent of the general population. However, the study also concluded that the Census Bureau's multimillion-dollar ad campaign, which began in November, should raise awareness levels and, more importantly, effectively motivates Americans to participate in the census.

As part of its continuing oversight of census preparations, the Monitoring Board commissioned a series of focus groups and a national public opinion survey to measure public attitudes toward the census, and specifically to test the appeal of messages contained in the Census Bureau's ad campaign. The \$167 million ad campaign has been in development for months.

The survey found that the Census Bureau's efforts to increase participation in the census among African Americans would benefit from a message that emphasizes the census' role in determining how federal dollars are spent in their local communities.

Eight in 10 Americans find it persuasive that "The Census

count helps to determine how the federal government spends 190 billion dollars, and how much money each community gets for new schools and other educational programs, money for health care, emergency services, job training, roads, public transportation, and many other things."

The poll included oversamples of African, Hispanic and Asian Americans to measure any differences across racial groups. It found that minorities and whites agree that the return of federal dollars to their communities is an important reason to answer their census questionnaires. However, there are also some message distinctions among racial and ethnic groups.

"African and Asian Americans give dominance to a message about what the census means in practical terms for their communities."

"Whites and Hispanics place community needs on a par with a general message about civic responsibility."

"Assurances about confidentiality find more appeal among Hispanics and Asian Americans than other groups."

The Census Monitoring Board is a bipartisan oversight body created in 1997 to monitor and observe all aspects of census preparations and implementation.

# A FORM OF EMPOWERMENT.

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Census 2000.

This is our future.

Don't leave it blank.





# Zero Tolerance

While growing up how many times did you hear this line from your parents or guardian — "This is going to hurt me more than it's going to hurt you," before you got cops upside the head? Probably a lot. In my household, as a kid, the rule was zero tolerance. I kid you not, when it came to nonsense like acting out in school, disrespect, and being lax on your chores was dealt with swiftly and firmly. When I attended public school back-in-the-day, although we didn't wear uniforms students had to adhere to a certain dress code, deemed appropriate for school. And if your style of dress was not up to par, you were immediately sent home from school — zero tolerance. Those students that disrupted class were dealt with accordingly and immediately. There was an aura of respect reserved and demonstrated by both the students and teachers. All of these things have gone awry and fallen to the wayside, in lieu of liberal thinking. Jesse Jackson's intervention in the brawl that took place amongst some unruly teens in Decatur, Georgia, is an act that further encourages this type of behavior. Kids need to come to understand at an early age that they are consequences to be paid for their actions — when good we call them rewards. But, these students, who knew zero tolerance was the line of defense at their school should have been made to pay the consequence for their action. We lose sight on the fact that some of the hard lessons of life can turn out to be rewarding later. So now these students, instead of being given what appears to be a harsh dose of reality (expelled for two weeks) they've been given an excuse to act out again. Rules need to be placed and continue to exist to encourage a civil society. No way no place they have become an exception to the rule. No way!

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my outrage at the demonstration held recently in Trenton by officers in support of the other officers arrested for racial profiling incident. I am a supporter of the first amendment but I have to question if those officers and weatherizers would have better served to assist the department in weeding out bad

officers than supporting these officers. African American men have some inalienable rights and should not be in jeopardy because of their race. This insanity must end. I wish Mr. Dunbar, the new director of the State Police well, but he certainly has his work cut out for him.

Sincerely,  
A Concerned Citizen

# Jesse Jackson loses direction

By Mike Green

In what is likely to be the most embarrassing moment of his illustrious civil rights career, Jesse Jackson recently rushed to Decatur, Illinois with a crowd of "supporters" and was arrested in the spotlight of the national media. Why? Several black teenagers involved in a brawl at a local high school football game each received a two-year expulsion.

boys never handled guns or received any exposure or firearms training while witnessing countless "deaths" in movies and on television. School officials should have been alerted to the situation. In the spotlight of the national media, Jackson's intervention in the brawl at a local high school football game each received a two-year expulsion.

Images of the brutal "mob action," as it was called by school authorities, filled television screens across America. Any reasonable person witnessing the incident would agree that it was a mob action. But, to his credit, the Jackson was right to call for the students to be punished individually in relation to their role in the brawl. Still, Jackson did not get on a plane, much less tie up the Decatur police for hours, to make this point. These boys deserved to be arrested, not to be taken to the police with a stern "talking to" they would have likely received if Jackson were successful in his quest to get the boys reinstated immediately in the classroom.

Jackson should have gone to San Diego, California. When he turned the nation's attention to the humiliating spectacle in Decatur, three black boys in San Diego between the ages of 12 and 13 were arrested and thirteen found a discarded rifle on their way to school. They played with it for a little while, and then hid it. About a week later, one of the boys informed a coach of their discovery. The coach notified school authorities, and the boys led them to the loaded rifle. Without hesitation, San Diego City School authorities sent the boys to court, and began contemplating expelling the two who did not tell the coach.

School officials call this a policy of zero tolerance. It sounds more like a policy of zero intelligence. Consider, if you will, that the boys are pre-teens filled with curiosity for almost anything and everything providing an adrenaline rush. Also consider that these

Jesse Jackson's cry for a "mob action" was that was misguided in Decatur because it was never received in San Diego. And he would not have had to recruit a busload of out-of-towners to stand in front of the cameras. Police well, but he certainly has his work cut out for him.

The bottom line is that this nation must come to grips with violence and how to deal with it. It is absurd to attempt to rescue high school hoodlums from severe punishment after they've created a massively dangerous and violent episode at a school football game — endangering the safety of innocent bystanders. It is equally absurd to punish adolescent kids for doing the right thing. The three San Diego boys hid the weapon and reported it. Their presence of mind kept the guns from falling into the wrong hands. It was the actions of the adults, not the kids, which led to the dispute. Far too many schools, in disintegrating the social fabric, "allow everything from protective dress to liberally free social environments among immature teens.

Violence erupts every day in public schools, but is accepted and usually handled in routine fashion. How can parents and administrators expect children to receive good education in a loosely controlled social environment where good students are intimidated, slower students indoctrinated and fewer students are insulated from the madness that disrupts and detracts from the educational progress?

# Real Y2K problem: Ignoring the 2000 Census

By John Templeton

We now know why Texas Governor George Bush's handlers haven't let him talk much. He actually speaks his mind when given the opportunity.

Comments from both Bush and Connecticut Senator Joseph Lieberman on recent talk shows indicate that the real Y2K problem for African Americans is not whether computers can count the change of the century, but whether we will stand up and be counted. Otherwise, it will seem like an instant replay of 1900.

On "Meet the Press," Bush stated that the two Supreme Court justices he admired were Antonio Scalia and Clarence Thomas. The son of former President George Bush said Thomas' performance had vindicated his father for nominating Thomas. Of course, Thomas is the one person whose presence has diminished civil rights law and affirmative action programs at the first vote on anti-African-American rulings.

As leader of the state where James Byrd was dragged to his death, Bush continued to express opposition to hate crime legislation and declined to support the continuance of disadvantage business enterprise legislation. So, we could expect Bush to follow his father, who voted the 1990 Civil Rights Act and his brother, who recently ended affirmative action programs at the federal level in Florida.

Things weren't much better on the other side of the aisle. Lieberman told Fox News that Donna Brazile, manager of the Al Gore campaign and an African-American woman, didn't really speak for Gore when she said that African Americans, the labor population, and women were the core constituents of the Democratic Party. Lieberman said that President Clinton won the 1992 election because he ignored those constituencies in favor of the "silent majority" of Democrats.

Given this kind of motivation, it would be imperative for Blacks to contribute to the budget surplus by reducing the cost of the 2000 Census. In the past, some have felt that they did not have an interest in being counted by the government. Some of the reasons included suspicion of Big Brother, fear of being disintegrated doing something questionable and an attitude of "it don't matter anyway."

In fact, the presidential elections at the turn of the American centuries have been

real watersheds for race relations in the United States. Thomas Jefferson's 1800 election meant that a possible end of slavery as early as 1803 was delayed until the Civil War. Teddy Roosevelt's accession in 1900 allowed Jim Crow to take hold.

We can reduce the cost of the Census by fully participating in the initial mail survey, taking outreach programs into the poorest neighborhoods, and if necessary, by electing any reallocation brother or sister down to the nearest Census tabulator.

The potential picture gets even worse

**The Census figures will determine redistricting of political offices from the U.S. House of Representatives to state legislatures to city councils and school boards. With the Voting Rights Act still in force until 2007, it is imperative that the presence of African Americans be correctly counted.**

than George Bush nominating five more Clarence Thomases to the Supreme Court, which would mean an end of constitutional protections we've worked 200 years to achieve and the half-hearted Democrat naming centrist judges.

The Census figures will determine redistricting of political offices from the U.S. House of Representatives to state legislatures to city councils and school boards. With the Voting Rights Act still in force until 2007, it is imperative that the presence of African Americans be correctly counted. One need look no further than the most recent election in Mississippi in which the state's lower house, the legislative body with the least influence African Americans of any state in the country, will get to pick a governor due to lack of a majority vote cast. With a majority of state legislatures being run by Republicans, we can expect massive efforts to eliminate Black voting power.

Impacts extend into your daily lives as well. Every employer in the country with more than 15 employees has to compare their hiring with the labor force availabil-

ty of protected classes such as African Americans. If that hiring is more than two standard deviations from the norm in their employment area, then the federal government can impose sanctions according to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. That provision has been responsible for a growth of Black employment from six million in 1964 to 14 million in 1999; from 40,000 professionals and managers to three million. In order for it to work effectively, we have to be counted with our skills, educational backgrounds and work histories.

The 2000 Census is likely to challenge a number of stereotypes about the Black community. Our progress has been clouded by a number of negative statistics. However, if we all participate, we will know how much we have to defend.

The second way to be counted is to be registered to vote. San Francisco Mayor Willie L. Brown faces a runoff in December because registration and voting of Blacks declined sharply from his first election four years ago. Although his campaign did not do a good job of making African Americans feel valued and important, this is a new millennium.

We can no longer wait for messiahs to tell us what our interests are. One does not have to be John Hope Franklin to understand that Blacks have been treated better since we got the ability to vote and used it.

The 2000 election could undo that simple privilege. Then where will we be? Globalization, and technology advances are placing a high cost on being ignored and uninvolved. If you don't participate in the decisions that shape your life, someone will come into the country from overseas and take away what ever comfort zone you think you've found, whether it's a housing project, a neighborhood that were once all Black have a completely new look.

So, let Uncle Sam know all your business: where you live, how much you make, where you make it, the names of all your kids, and what many library books you've read, and whether you prefer collard or mustard greens.

You'll only lose if you are not counted.

John William Templeton is executive editor of *Griot*, the African-American, African-Caribbean business daily at <http://www.blackmoney.com>

# Loving African people

By Dr. Conrad W. Worrill

At the end of every season, I always affirm my love for African people. So it is in that spirit, once again, I affirm my love for African people.

In the past letters, I used the term Black. However, as we move into a new time zone or what the European world calls a new millennium, or new century, it must be made clear that we are an African people. An African people whose ancestry stems from the continent of Africa. Black seeds have been sown all over the world, wherever African people live.

The word love is probably one of the most used and overworked words in the English language. According to most European definitions, love is "a feeling of strong personal attachment induced by sympathetic understanding or by ties of kinship." And of course we are most familiar with the usage of the word love in connection with "Tender and passionate affection for one of the opposite sex."

From time to time we also hear the word love used as an expression and articulation of one's love for African people as a race.

During this new season of love for each other, as a race of people, should be emphasized in our family and community discussions throughout the African world.

It is without question, that segments of the worldwide African Community have lost all sense of moral and ethical relationships with other African people. This is demonstrated day in and day out by the increased number of African people participating in their own genocide; killing each other, mistreating and physically abusing each other, stealing from each other, being dishonest with each other, and the list goes on and on.

I can truly say I love African people no matter how frustrated I get with the negative behavior of so many of our people.

I love African people because I understand that the creative force of the universe has endowed us to make the great contributions we have made and continue to make to the world.

A simple inspection of the ancient Nile Valley civilizations of Kemetic (Egypt) should cause all African people to love each other. Ancient Kemetic and the Kemetic people (African people) were the creators of mathematics, science, medicine, architecture, writing, government, astronomy, medicine, and so much more.

The ancient Kemetic people produced wisdom that was written down in their language called "Medwen Netenher" Divine Speech (our classical African language) or what the Europeans called hieroglyphs.

We can examine this ancient Kemetic

wisdom in The Huxia, which gives us insight into how our great ancestors viewed life, death, human relations, marriage, parenting, use of power, God, family, and standards of moral and ethical conduct.

Reading *The Huxia* brings out all my love for African people in a most profound and spiritual way.

**As a race of people we really have no choice but to love each other. The Europeans created the system of white supremacy that has caused so much of the world to hate us, even though they secretly admire what we have given to the world. Many of them know the truth. The problem is so many of us don't — due to the education system they created to cover up the truth.**

Listen to the words translated in *The Huxia*:

"Do not terrorize people for if you do, God will punish you accordingly. If anyone lives by such means, God will take bread from his or her mouth. If one says I will be right by such means, he will eventually have to say my means have entraped me."

This passage continues:

"If one says I will rob another, he will end up being robbed himself. The plans of men and women do not always come to pass for in the end it is the will of God which prevails. Therefore, one should live in peace with others and give gifts which another would take from them through fear."

These words were written 4,000 to 5,000 years ago and their wisdom should cause all African people to once again love each other for the greater good of our race.

Our love for each other and the wisdom of our ancestors should give us the inspiration and motivation, during this new season, to rededicate ourselves to the continued struggle for the liberation of African people worldwide.

As a race of people we really have no choice but to love each other. The Europeans created the system of white supremacy that has caused so much of the world to hate us, even though they secretly admire what we have given to the world. Many of them know the truth. The problem is so many of us don't — due to the education system they created to cover up the truth.

It seems to me that the ravaging of African civilizations, African culture, African minds, African lands, and African spirit, at this present stage in history, places those of us who proclaim to be followers of the "African Way" and lovers of African people to build institutions based on African spirituality, ethics and morals.

We have a responsibility and duty to the Creator who gives us all life, power, and health, by building institutions and giving back that which has been given to us through the creative force of the universe.

I love African people because I know we have the capacity to return to the concept of *Maat* (truth, justice, balance, divine order, righteousness, reciprocity, and love), and by doing so restore *Maat* to its rightful place in our lives. *Maat* is restored we can do as the Creator has done by giving life, power, and health. By restoring *Maat* we restore ourselves.

Only through love can we survive the white supremacy genocidal onslaught. I love African people and I urge all African people to love each other!

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## BUSINESS CALENDAR

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

**NEWARK** — The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) hosts a seminar on obtaining bank loans at Two Gateway Center, 1 p.m. (732) 642-2434.

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

**NEWARK** — The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) hosts a seminar on obtaining bank loans at Two Gateway Center, 10 a.m. (732) 642-2434.

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — The New Jersey Bar Foundation hosts a seminar on financing auto insurance at the New Jersey Legal Center, 1 p.m. (732) 242-5000.

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — The New Jersey Bar Foundation hosts a seminar on financing long term health care at the New Jersey Legal Center, 1 p.m. (732) 242-5000.

**NEWARK** — The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) hosts a seminar on preparing a concise business plan at Two Gateway Center, 1 p.m. (732) 642-2434.

**UNION** — The Union County Economic Development Corporation offers two workshops on Internet marketing and business operations and Internet security, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. (908) 527-1160.

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

**NEWARK** — The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) hosts a seminar on financial and technical assistance for small business at Two Gateway Center, 9 a.m. (732) 642-2434.

**SOMERSET** — First Baptist Community Development Corporation (FBCDC) hosts a housing fair for new home buyers, 1 p.m. Call (732) 242-5592 for information.

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

**EDISON** — The Middlesex Chapter of the New Jersey Association of Non-Profit Business Owners (NJANBO) hosts a holiday boutique and entertainment showcase at the Clarion Hotel, 6 p.m. (732) 328-8406.

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

**TRENTON** — Metropolitan Trenton African American Chamber of Commerce hosts its monthly networking luncheon, Call (609) 393-5933 for information.

## Fannie Mae commits \$8 billion to house 180,000 NJ families

**NEWARK** — Fannie Mae, the nation's largest source of financing for home mortgages, recently announced that "Housing New Jersey," a new 5-year, \$18 billion investment plan, will finance affordable housing for 180,000 New Jersey families.

U.S. Sen. Robert Torricelli (D-NJ), Rep. Donald Payne (D-NJ) and Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Consumer Affairs Committee Chairman Kenny and Newark Mayor Sharpe James joined Fannie Mae's James S. Gorelick and local housing partners for the launch, including a commitment by the company to open a New Jersey Partnership Office in Newark.

The announcement of the House New Jersey investment plan and the opening of the local Partnership Office are part of Fannie Mae's \$1 trillion commitment to help finance more than 10 million homes in 10 years for the most in need.

"Together with local lenders and housing experts, we have created a plan that will allow us to address the state's unique housing needs through this \$18 billion investment plan," Gorelick said.

"Fannie Mae's commitment to our state is great news and I look forward to working with the company and its many partners to expand affordable housing opportunities," said Rep. Payne.

Commerce Fannie Mae on their efforts to create new affordable housing opportunities in New Jersey, said Rep. Menendez. "I am pleased that no efforts over the past years to engage Fannie Mae in New Jersey communities has resulted in a tangible initiative that will benefit New Jersey families and neighborhoods."

Gorelick also announced the appointment of the New Jersey Partnership Officer, Tim Toubey.

Before coming to Fannie Mae, Toubey was the executive director of New Jersey Housing Mortgage & Finance Agency, the largest nonprofit financier of affordable housing in New Jersey. He also served as Vice-Chair of the Council on Affordable Housing and was one



U.S. Rep. Donald Payne

of the original members of the Governor's Urban Coordinating Council, a task force to address the problems of New Jersey's aging cities.

"We welcome Fannie Mae to New Jersey to share in the Whitman Administration's commitment to smart growth development, more sustainable communities and the personal rewards of homeownership," said Commissioner Kenny. "This initiative will build on our efforts to make New Jersey a better place to live and work."

The New Jersey Partnership Office to be located in Newark will serve all 21 counties in New Jersey. "Fannie Mae is proud to have been selected as the home base for the New Jersey Partnership Office," said Rep. Menendez. "We look forward to expanding our collaboration with Fannie Mae as we work together to make a difference in the lives of Newark families, as well as families across our great state through neighborhood and community revitalization."

According to Gorelick, the investment plan was designed to encourage housing and community development by providing affordable mortgage financing and rental opportunities to low- and moderate-income families in the state.

"Specific housing needs Fannie Mae plans to address with its leader partners through the New Jersey Partnership Office include:

- Expanding affordable mort-

gage products and services to support under-served neighborhoods, and low- and moderate-income families. As the most densely populated state in the nation, New Jersey is home to many new immigrants and long-standing ethnic communities. Fannie Mae's efforts in the area of increasing minority homeownership will include developing products that recognize the unique barriers to homeownership, minority and immigrant families face. To advance these efforts, Fannie Mae has entered a partnership with the New Jersey Partnership Office and committed \$15,000 to enable more minority mortgage bankers to access the resources and information available through this organization.

- Increasing the number of minority planners. Housing partnerships available throughout the state. These partnerships are geared toward low- and moderate-income, first-time home buyers.

- Preserving the state's housing stock. Fannie Mae will make available through local lenders its line of HomeStyle mortgage products to assist with the renovation efforts. HomeStyle is a line of products that provide affordable financing for purchase and renovation of property.

- Making available reverse mortgage products through its Home Keeper, Home Keep for Home Purchase, and the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM). Reverse mortgages allow senior homeowners to convert the equity in their homes into tax-free cash flow to maintain or enhance their current lifestyles.

- Introducing special mortgage products such as the Timely Payment Rewards Mortgage, a mortgage that allows borrowers with slightly impaired credit who are unable to qualify for a lower-cost conventional mortgage to finance their home at a lower rate. The mortgage is repaid by the borrower's timely payments. Timely Payment Rewards Mortgage will be available through local lenders in New Jersey by early next year, officials said.

Customers may call Fannie Mae at (800) 1 FANNIE (732) 242-5900, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

## Time is short for 1999 tax planning



Dale G. Caldwell

It is never too early to devise a plan to save on taxes. For most people, taxes rank as the largest yearly expense.

Yet, as the end of the year grows near — along with the deadline for making changes to your tax liability — many people are still procrastinating about finding strategies that would reduce their 1999 tax bill.

Taxes are so complex, you should work with an accountant, tax lawyer or financial planner with expertise in taxes. But first, do these six things:

- Re-examine last year's taxes and estimate what your year's federal, state and local taxes will be. This will help you identify any significant increases or decreases in your taxes.
- Be alerting you to any potential tax saving strategies that you might use.

- Maximize your contribution to tax-deferred retirement accounts. Individual Retirement Accounts and 401(k) savings plans provide an excellent way to reduce your pre-tax income and thus your taxes.

- Minimize your non-deductible interest expenses. Credit-card and other non-deductible interest eats into personal income and can limit your ability to comfortably pay taxes.

- But home mortgage interest can be deducted from your taxes and can significantly reduce your tax burden. Be sure to claim all of your home mortgage interest on your taxes.

- Consider investing in a tax free investment such as a municipal bond or a tax free mutual fund. You should determine the costs and benefits of investing in federal and/or state tax free investments. Typically, the higher your tax bracket the more beneficial tax free investments are.

- Examine the benefits of making charitable contributions

of stocks, other investments or personal property. When you contribute investment assets that you have held for more than one year to charity you can deduct the value of the property without paying capital gains tax. In addition, you can deduct a portion of the current market value of personal assets. Charitable contributions can provide significant tax savings to a charity while at the same time helping you reduce your tax burden.

- Consider participating in your company's flexible spending account.

These accounts enable you to contribute before-tax dollars into an account that can be used to pay your family's health care expenses. This is a great option for people who spend a lot on health care each year.

Flexible spending accounts are beneficial because you do not have to pay taxes on the money set aside in the account.

However, if you do not use all of the money set aside in the account, you will lose it at the end of the year.

If you are interested in finding out about the flexible spending account in your company, contact the benefits department.

These six items make a great start to tax planning.

These accounts enable you to contribute before-tax dollars into an account that can be used to pay your family's health care expenses. This is a great option for people who spend a lot on health care each year.

For help in identifying a reputable tax advisor, please feel free to contact me care of City News, 111 Mulberry St., Newark, NJ 07102.

*Dale G. Caldwell, a national director of recruiting for Tax & Tax Consulting Group, is founder and president of the National Association of Black Management Consultants. Write P.O. Box 733, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, or call 1 (888) 410-5398.*

## BUSINESS COMMENTARY

### Attaining economic autonomy

By Alkwas Evans

*The poor are habitually in debt. They borrow things they cannot afford and they borrow things they do not repay.*

It is an old biblical saying that "the poor will always be among us."

It should not, however, imply that we will always have a poor people. An entrepreneurial-minded friend of mine once told me that he "received an advice given to him by his father. His father, a Massachussetts farmer, told him that he would be to avoid being poor all he needed to do was watch what poor people do and then do just the opposite. That is a sage suggestion that most anyone could follow."

What do poor people do? First of all, they lack the industry to elevate themselves from their position. It is clearly better to be a middle class than to be a poor person. Poor people consistently abuse their right and wallow in self pity. Those who rise from poverty are not the inevitable of slavery and work their way around them. Poor people spend more than they earn and often go into debt. They earn it, a wise worker always pay him or herself whenever resources are earned and then they budget to pay others. The poor are habitually in debt. They buy things they cannot afford and they borrow things they do not repay. How can a poor person dream of prosperity when they can't see a way to make ends meet?

Poverty is not based solely upon lack of money. It is also the default attitude that is perpetually displayed by the destitute. A person will live happily on \$15,000 a year in our current economy if they live within their means and content themselves about five percent of their annual income. Oprah Winfrey grew up in the early part of the 20th Century. She was poor, educated, but had a strong work ethic.

"She took in laundry and lived frugally. She never did anything extravagant until a few years before her death. That's when she gained national recognition for donating over \$750,000 to Historically Black Colleges."

There is probably not one adult reading this column who couldn't come up with \$500 in an emergency. If there is, there shouldn't be. If your reader is employed at any

vocation. There is probably nobody working who couldn't save \$10 a week. It is a safe bet that there is not one worker earning minimum wage or better, who doesn't save at least \$10 a week. By merely saving ten bucks a week anyone could accumulate over \$500 in a year's time. How difficult would you feel if, going into the Thanksgiving holiday season of 2000, you have a significantly greater amount of economic security than you currently possess?

The same theory applies to those who could save or invest \$25 to \$100 a week and even more so to those who could invest collectively. The only difference is that the \$100 investor should expect to have over \$50,000 saved in one year and an expendable collective investment group would have the potential to have control of millions.

On the national level a growing number of serious minded African Americans are developing innovative ways to harness more of the \$500 plus billion Black Americans spend each year. The National Urban League announced the launching of the Circle of Excellence. Their endorsement fund is supported exclusively by individuals in the African-American community.

In October, Rev. Leon Sullivan announced the "Invest in Africa

Week" drive. Using the Peoples Investment Fund for Africa (PIFA), Rev. Sullivan hopes to raise \$75,000 before the onset of the year. At the end of this month representatives of the National Black Chamber of Commerce are going to meet in New York to set up for trade between Blacks in Brazil and Blacks in the U.S.

For all Americans of African descent, it has to be painfully obvious that racial discrimination will continue to be a strong factor in this nation's ongoing effort to maintain its supremacy. This institutionalized denial and neglect sustains the cultural dichotomy that causes most Caucasians to take on an air of innate superiority. Viewing Black progress over the centuries from a spiritual perspective it is easy to see how we can continue to improve individually and collectively. If only five percent of the nearly 40,000,000 African Americans resolve to save more in 2000, than they did in 1999, each one of those 8,000,000 people would be better off. Especially if they simultaneously became more conscientious about their spending.

*Alkwas Evans is the publisher of NOKORA, a newspaper in Austin, Texas. His e-mail address is nokora@escape.net.*

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# Religion

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December 8 — December 14, 1999

## RELIGION CALENDAR

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

**WOODBRIDGE** — The Woodbridge Township Cultural Arts Commission of the Baron Arts Center presents a gospel choir concert featuring the St. James Roman Catholic Church, 7:30 p.m. (732) 634-2415.

**WESTFIELD** — The Choral Art Society of New Jersey, Inc. hosts its annual Messiah Community Sing at First Baptist Church, 8 p.m. (908) 232-2455.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

**PLAINFIELD** — Rose Of Sharon Community Church presents its holiday musical "The Night The Angels Sang," 6 p.m. (908) 581-6070.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

**SUMMIT** — The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders presents "Angels Gather Near," an evening of carols and spirituals for the holiday season starting The Concord Singers and special guest the Newark Boys Chorus School Apprentice Chorus at St. John's Lutheran Church, 7 p.m. (908) 464-6250.

## Diversity in private schools seen

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Private schools participating in the Milwaukee school-choice program have seen their enrollments become more racially diverse since the program was expanded, a study recently released by backers of the program said.

Under the program, the state is paying tuition costs for about 8,000 youngsters from low-income Milwaukee families to attend the private schools, including religious schools, instead of going to public schools.

"Rather than increasing racial isolation, choice has caused a notable increase in racial balance in Milwaukee's private schools," said the analysis released by Howard Fuller, a Marquette University professor and former superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools, and consultant George Mitchell.

Using information from the annual citywide school census, Mitchell and Fuller said that in the 1994-95 school year, when the choice program had 802 participants, private schools in the city were 73 percent white and 27 percent minority.

In the 1998-99 school year, after a program expansion to just under 6,200 students, the figures were 64 percent white and 36 percent minority, they said.

State Rep. Annette Foly Williams (D-Milwaukee), a central figure in creating the choice program but someone who has been very leery of how the racial aspects of the program were playing out, said she did not want to react to the report until she'd had a chance to read it.

"They have findings they want to prove," she said of Fuller and Mitchell.

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## Kaleem Shabazz selected "Muslim Man of the Year"

WASHINGTON — Kaleem Shabazz, an Atlantic City, New Jersey native, and president of Shabazz Associates, a consulting firm based in Atlantic City, has been selected as one of the Islamic Convention's 1999 Muslim Man of the Year. Mr. Shabazz received this prestigious award at the Islamic Convention held recently in Philadelphia, in recognition of his many accomplishments in the areas of community and public relations. He is the recipient of numerous organizational awards and honors in Atlantic County and throughout New Jersey for his longtime community involvement and civic contributions. A graduate of Rutgers University, Shabazz is a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He and his wife, Yolanda, reside in Atlantic City, New Jersey.



### Special Feature

## Different centuries, but the same conflicts in many regions

By Paisley Dodds

As parts of the globe greet the 21st century with peace and prosperity, others will enter the new year with the same conflicts they had 100 years ago.

Over the last century, colonialism crumbled in Africa, economic development spurred democracy in parts of South America and countries like Czechoslovakia peacefully won independence.

But the age-old firestorms of war — ethnicity, religion, ideology and money — still blight progress in places like the Balkans, Russia, the Middle East and the Horn of Africa.

"These conflicts are intractable," said Lynn Miller, a professor at Temple University. "In many respects, the struggles look much like they did at the turn of the century."

At the start of the 1900s in the Balkans, territories had broken free of the Ottoman Empire and the bulk of Balkan peoples were at peace with each other.

But there was a quick turnaround in 1903 when the Serbs felt manipulated by both Austrian and Russian influences. Serb nationalism took root and Serbs began to mobilize against ethnic groups who posed a threat to a national Serbian identity.

The first effort made to solve the Balkan crisis ended in global disaster.

The 1914 assassination in Sarajevo of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, triggered World War I. That conflict brought down continental Europe's four great empires, setting off economic disruptions and political chaos that led to World War II.

The Balkans are just as troubled today, with 80,000 international peacekeepers trying to cool tensions among Serbs, Croats, Albanians and Bosnian Muslims after wars in Croatia, Bosnia and Serbia's Kosovo province.

But continuing revenge attacks by ethnic Albanians against Serbs and other minorities in Kosovo have international leaders fearful about a never-ending cycle of violence.

Like the Balkans, Chechnya remains embroiled in a nationalistic war. At the core of the dispute is the creation of an independent Muslim state.

After a 29-year war, the Chechens were finally conquered by the czar's army by the start of this century.

In 1944, fearing another Chechen rebellion, Josef Stalin's Red Army deported hundreds of Chechens from their Caucasus Mountains homeland to Siberian gulags, where the rebels earned the reputation as being some of the hardest prisoners to crack.

Chechens retain that toughness. Fueled by their drive for independence, they continue to fight Russia's army.

Unlike Lithuania, Ukraine and Uzbekistan — which broke from the Soviet Union — Chechnya remains a part of Russia. Moscow feels it must suppress the rebels to forestall chaos, protect a key oil export route and head off a rise in Islamic fundamentalism in Russia's Muslim areas.

No longer drawn just by Cuba's sugar, the United States presses sanctions in hopes of forcing Cuban President Fidel Castro from power and bringing extensive market reforms to the communist-ruled island.

With the exception of Kuwait, many nations hadn't been created in the Middle East by 1999, but the foundation for the Jewish campaign to create an independent state was being laid.

Like the Middle East, ethnic and religious tensions continue to stir trouble in post-colonial Africa.

From 1899 to 1920, Somali chieftain Muhammad ibn Ad Allah, Hassan, leader of a militant Muslim Sufi brotherhood, pursued a holy war against British colonialism.

Today, the fighting is among Somali clans that want control in the territory, which has deteriorated to a state of anarchy.

In Sudan, where anti-colonialist wars raged against the British in the late 1800s, civil war has been a near constant of the latter half of the 20th century. Three out of 43 years of independence have been spent at war, making its civil

war one of the longest in history.

Its peoples thrown together by colonial decisions, Sudan's civil war pits the people of the south, mainly blacks who follow Christianity and tribal religions, against the mostly Arab and Islamic north. An estimated 2 million people have died, many from war-related famine.

Despite these enduring conflicts, Miller, the Temple University professor, cautions against letting the snapshots and headlines of such failures overshadow the century's accomplishments.

"It's a question of whether the glass is half full or half empty."

## Black churches take their shopping out of state

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Some black church members are taking their holiday shopping out of state to honor the NAACP's economic boycott of the state.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's boycott, aimed at bringing the Confederate flag down from atop the North Carolina Statehouse dome, is scheduled to begin Jan. 1.

Union Baptist Church in Columbia had originally planned to take about 100 shoppers to Myrtle Beach, but the boycott changed organizers' minds. The group headed to North Carolina over the weekend.

Bethel AME, also in Columbia, had a shopping trip to North Carolina. Churches in Eastover, Winnsboro and Jenkinsville have shown interest in

the idea as well.

Durham Carter, a Union Baptist member, says the growing list of shoppers is an important part of the boycott.

"One church can make a difference when you think in terms of a hundred-plus people going into North Carolina to shop," Carter said. "Economically, that's going to make a difference."

Union Baptist Church has a rich civil rights history. NAACP members in the 1960s and 1970s came to the church to work on strategies.

Member Shirley Felder-Epps says the church today plays a similar role.

"Years ago, we could only meet in two places, in the home and in the church," she said. "The church has always been the foundation for the black movement."

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Business/Evening Attire

Local Briefs

Production company hosts Christmas show and sale expo

PISCATAWAY — Moselle Productions, Inc. (MPI) a Piscataway event planning and management company will host a Christmas show and sale at Piscataway High School on December 11 and 12. The event will showcase the products and services of home-based, women-owned and small business, and runs from 12-5 p.m. on both days. Some of the items on display include clothing, jewelry, home decorations, and toys, etc. Admission is free and food and refreshments will be on sale. For more information, please call 1-(877)-791-9333.

Program helps Newark children improve their reading skills

NEWARK — Genevieve Reavis, Principal of Burnet Street School in Newark recently said that the school's youngest students are improving their reading skills thanks to "America Reads Challenge," a federal program launched by President Clinton. "America Reads" is designed to provide children with the reading skills and support they need to learn to read once they start school, and to help each child learn to read well and independently by the end of the third grade. Work study students from Rutgers University and the New Jersey Institute of Technology were enlisted to serve as reading tutors to the seventy-five kindergarten through third-grade students who meet at least three times a week.

Housing fair comes to Somerset

SOMERSET — First Baptist Community Development and Urban Renewal Corporation (FBDURC) hosts a housing fair December 11. This marks phase two of the Home Ownership Program spearheaded by First Baptist. The house up for purchase is the Hampton Club Condominium Complex in Somerset. Potential buyers will undergo credit counseling and a home buyer education course provided by the Housing Coalition of Central Jersey. Prospective purchasers will also have the opportunity to review mortgage applications with the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (HMFJA) and other mortgage lenders. "The fair will serve as a one-stop-shop for home buyers. The resource available will prove beneficial for those undergoing the process for the first time," said Rev. Larry Williams, president of FBDURC. All home buyers will be selected from a lottery scheduled for December 14. For information call (732) 247-4592.

"First Night Newark" unveils stellar line-up of artists & entertainers to enter the new century

NEWARK — Organizers for First Night Newark 2000 unveiled a stellar line-up of artists and entertainers for Newark's millennium celebration which takes place Friday, December 31, 1999, at various venues in the Newark downtown district. "Share the Light, Ignite the Spirit" is the theme of this year's First Night. The visual and performing arts celebration is designed to bring in the New Year in a substance-free environment that revives the ancient tradition of marking the passage of time with art, ritual and festivity. Beginning at 7:45 p.m., festival goers will delight in continuous music, dance, theater, comedy, poetry, art and unexpected happenings designed to bring in the New Year in a safe, alcohol-free environment. Over eighty percent of the artists selected for this year's festivities are from Newark," says Board member Jaklyn DeVore who heads the programming efforts. "Careful consideration was given to all the proposals submitted and we worked very hard to ensure that



R&B group The Silver Stars will participate in "First Night Newark"

our program is artistically and culturally inclusive. There's something for everyone." The annual Grand People's Light Procession begins at 11 p.m. at Park Place across from NJPAC. Revelers will march to the grand finale which takes

place at NJPAC's Parking Lot A, adjacent to the art center, where the evening culminates with a gospel extravaganza featuring the Brother Brothers, InWay, Fortessa, Sisters in Christ with Irene "No-Ne" Anderson, and Gallman's Dance Theater. This

outdoor setting provides a spectacular view of midnight fireworks that will ring in the New Year and the new millennium with new promises and hope for Newark.

Here's a list of some of the events that will take place at "First Night Newark"

**The Newark Museum**  
49 Washington Street  
Bass player Kevin Maynor performs "Three Black Men" (Frederick Douglass, Paul Robeson and Malcolm X)

**591 Board Street**  
Hip Hop Dance Party: A multimedia video dance party featuring guest rapper Ra-Z

**NJPAC Café**  
Park Pl. & One Center St.  
A performance of jazz, gospel and classical music with songstress Aisha Hosley

**IDT Corp.**  
530 Broad Street  
A performance by the legendary R&B group Silver Stars

**NJPAC Victoria Theater**  
One Center Street  
HBO's Do...Comedy All-Star Jam featuring Leighann Lerd and Jim Mendrinos.

Spirited performances, vendor market place, fun family activities mark three-day Kwanzaa celebration at NJPAC

NEWARK — Honoring a Heritage, a three-day celebration of the Kwanzaa holiday featuring performances on two stages, family activities for all ages and an exciting marketplace transforming the lobby of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) into an Afro-centric mini-market will begin on Thursday, December 16, with a gospel concert in Prudential Hall. The celebration is presented in association with the Beta Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority, Inc. and the North Jersey Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. The 7 p.m. concert, sold out for weeks, will feature the critically-acclaimed NJPAC Jubilation Choir with solo performances by Cissy Houston and Walter Hawkins. The Choir is under the musical direction of Stephanie Minette. Keeping with the tradition of paying tribute to elders during this unique African-American holiday, noted journalist G. Noble and Bernice Johnson, a retired vice principal in the Newark Public School system, will be honored at the formal opening ceremonies of the Kwanzaa Festival at 7 p.m., Friday, in the Victoria Theater. Noble and Johnson are being recognized as "distinguished community leaders who have made enormous contributions to the African American community, the residents of Newark and society at large," according to Philip S. Thomas, NJPAC Vice President for Arts Education.

The formal opening program will feature a traditional Kwanzaa candle-lighting ritual conducted by educator and performer Ujima Kangeyo Mimy with participation by students from Patrick Henry Middle School in East Orange, one of whom are part of NJPAC's Theater Academy Residency. Mimy will lead the audience through a Kwanzaa Ceremony honoring the seven principles of individual strength and community that serve as guides for daily living known as the Nguzo Saba.

These principles, Mimy explained, are Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity), and Imani (Faith). Tickets for Savion Glover's

performance as well as for the Kwanzaa Opening Celebration and Ceremony and the Honore Reception may be purchased by telephone (1-888-OO-NJPAC) or at the NJPAC Box Office at One Center Street in downtown Newark.

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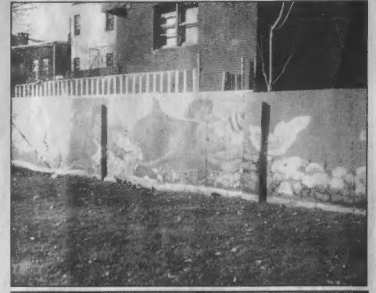
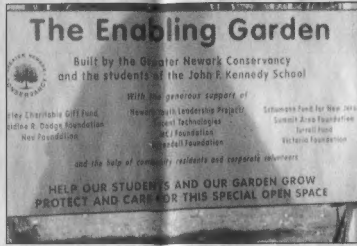
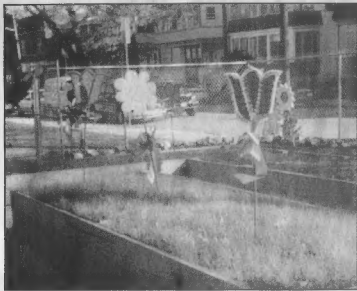
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1999	100 Black Men of New Jersey Media Award	1994	Best Editorial National Newspaper Publishers Association Annual Conference, Minneapolis	1989	Community Service Award Black United Fund of New Jersey
1998	Corporate/Business Recognition and Appreciation Award New Jersey State Convention of NAACP	1993	Best Feature Story National Newspaper Publishers Association Annual Conference Los Angeles, California	1989	Certificate of Appreciation Future Business Leaders of America Plainfield High School
1998	Media Appreciation Award Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Newark, NJ	1993	Best Youth Section National Newspaper Publishers Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA	1988	Certificate of Appreciation Distributive Education Plainfield High School
1998	Excellence in Service Rendered NJ Grand Lodge International F & A M Masons	1993	Congressional Record Congressman Donald M. Payne U. S. House of Representatives	1988	Special Recognition NJ Minority Braintrust
1998	Man and Woman of the Year United Caribbean African-American Alliance	1993	Recognition for Support & Encouragement NJ United Minority Business Braintrust	1988	Community Service Asbury Park - Neptune NAACP
1997	Media Award for Outstanding Performance in National Minority Business Council, New York, NY, Communication and the Minority Community	1992	Best News Story National Newspaper Publishers Association Annual Conference, Baltimore, Maryland	1986	Outstanding Business Plainfield — A City For All Seasons
1997	Achievement in Academics and Journalistic Publishing North Jersey Medical Society	1991	Minority Business Advocate of the Year Minority Business Development Center, Newark, NJ	1986	Journalistic Excellence, Civic Dedication, Community Pride Seventh Day Adventist Church, Plainfield, NJ
1997	Community Service Award/Outstanding Service through Concerned Black Nurses of Newark, NJ Urban and Special Programs for Youth	1991	Best News Photo National Newspaper Publishers Association Annual Conference, Nassau, Bahamas	1984	Pride in Plainfield Proclamation Mayor Richard Taylor
1996	Community Service Award Urban League of Union County	1991	Founder's Day Award Omega Psi Phi	1984	Resolution NJ State General Assembly Assemblywoman Angela Perun
1996	Black Achievers—Entrepreneur of the Year YMCA of Northern and Central New Jersey	1990	Afro American Award for Journalist Excellence, NJ United Minority Business Braintrust		

## New garden spruces up community



**NEWARK** — The Greater Newark Conservancy recently launched the grand opening of their first ever "Enabling Garden." The garden, located at John F. Kennedy School (J.F.K.), is designed to provide a safe environment in which children can experience the joys of nature and gardening.

Students of J.F.K., a school for developmentally disabled students, assisted in the creation of the garden. The highlight of the garden was a Presidential Rose Garden, that included the names of American presidents in each rose.

This is one of many projects the Greater Newark Conservancy are involved in. Next fall the Conservancy will open its state-of-the-art Outdoor Learning Center, which will combine education and entertainment through demonstrations and exhibits on urban environment. The center will be adjacent to the Urban Environment and Ecological Center.

The Greater Newark Conservancy is a private, non-profit environmental and horticultural agency dedicated to the revitalization of Newark. Operating since 1987, the Greater Newark Conservancy's mission is to educate, train and support communities in creating environmentally safe neighborhoods through grassroots education and training, community organizing, preservation and improvement of open space, revitalization and beautification; job training and economic development. The guiding principle is to encourage and highlight community empowerment, pride and self-sufficiency.



At top, plants designed by students of J.F.K. School give the garden a unique look. At the bottom, the J.F.K. School Chorus entertains the audience at during the grand opening.

At top, the mural gives the garden a look of tranquility. At the bottom, a blanket designed by the students covers the flowers that are planted.

All photos by Jean H. Pierre

## Affordable housing available for low-income families in Jersey City

Part II  
By Gloria Duhan-Wilson

Exploring the myth and reality surrounding affordable housing in Jersey City, recently a panel of distinguished guests gathered at New Jersey City University to discuss the situation. This is the second part of the discussion.

One member of the audience, a woman in a wheelchair, was very upset about the lack of property available for physically challenged tenants. "We need affordable housing in Jersey City, but we also need housing for the handicapped. I'm in a wheelchair and I don't know where those houses are," she said. The response on the part of the panelists was quite wishy-washy. This left to reason the enforcement of the American with Disabilities Act which requires public properties and specific real estate properties of five families and up, to provide access to wheel chair bound tenants. At any rate there was no support forth coming for the lady's concerns.

Deputy Executive Director of the Department of Development and Assisted Housing, Maria Maio said, "All the people want is a decent place to live. Not the Taj Mahal, just a decent place to

live and a decent neighborhood to raise their families." Citing that there are 10,000 people on the public housing waiting list, Maio continued: "There are people who need Section 8 and can't even get on the list. It's a very long list. The Section 8 Certificate program basically says you take this certificate and go anywhere in the United States with this, and with this certificate the federal government will help you pay your rent. Right now there are about 100 people in Jersey City with these things in their hands and they can't use them. That's also a reality."

Affordable public housing which started after World War II was designed, according to Maio, in conjunction with employment. Together, this made an attractive package for war veterans returning home and getting their lives together. But what came to pass was a rise in rents, which dictated generations of families never leaving the confines of public housing. For many of these people in Jersey City, public housing became their communities.

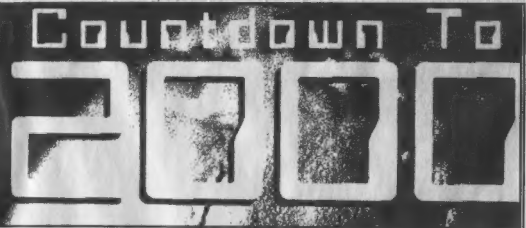
Panelist Bob Pickett Esq., and a host member of WRKS' (KISS FM) Open Line, also postulated that creative means should be employed in providing affording housing for

Jersey City residents.

"Make the suburban communities a part of the solution," said Pickett. "The only way we are going to do that is to allow and compel school districts to stop operating as if they are singular districts. In other words, in Hudson County along, there has to be at some point in the future a regional school district that encompasses Jersey City. If we do not do that we will continue to be black, white, poor, and rich — we will have that kind of dichotomy. In Essex County, the same thing exists. The suburban communities are very comfortable with the notion that their children will never have to interact with people and children coming out of Newark."

Pickett hammered on the quality of education in its alignment with affordable housing. He cited New Jersey having 566 school districts with 566 superintendents, which he considered "insane," and felt New Jersey on a whole has been resistant to change in providing fair housing, quality housing and equality in education. He ended the discussion affirming that affordable housing in Jersey City is "more myth than reality."

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## Health Calendar

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for parents who lost a child to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) 7 p.m. (1-800-545-7437)

**JERSEY CITY** — Jersey City Medical Center hosts a support group meeting for newly diagnosed breast cancer patients 6 p.m. (201) 915-2000

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for parents of children in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) 7 p.m. (732) 937-8050

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for people dependent on nicotine 5:30 p.m. (732) 937-8050

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — The New Jersey State Bar Foundation hosts a free seminar on financing long term care at the New Jersey Law Center 1 p.m. (732) 937-7519

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a discussion on osteoporosis 6 p.m. (732) 937-8011

**PLAINFIELD** — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center offers water aerobics for seniors at the YMCA 10:45 a.m. (908) 753-3505

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group for couples who have lost a child during pregnancy 7 p.m. (732) 745-8600

**PLAINFIELD** — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center hosts a discussion on diabetes and blood pressure among seniors 11 a.m. (908) 753-3505

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for women who breastfeed at Homecare America 3:30 p.m. (732) 745-8600

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting on osteoporosis at the hospital's Homecare America Store in Somerset 3 p.m. (732) 283-4300

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for young people living with cancer 11 a.m. (732) 745-6674

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for teenagers living with diabetes 7 p.m. (732) 745-8577

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital offers a course in infant care Call (732) 937-8820 for information

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for caregivers of cancer patients 7 p.m. (732) 745-8600

**SOUTH PLAINFIELD** — The American Red Cross of Greater Union County and Plainfield Area holds a blood drive at South Plainfield High School 8 a.m. (908) 353-2500

**EDISON** — JFK Medical Center offers a course in fatherhood for new fathers 7 p.m. (732) 321-7000

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

**TEANECK** — Holy Name Hospital offers a two-day support program for people living with cancer and their caregivers 11 a.m. (201) 833-3185

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

**PLAINFIELD** — The Plainfield Senior Citizens holds free blood pressure screenings for seniors 10 a.m. (908) 753-3505

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital offers a course in healthy eating to a better heart 10:30 a.m. (732) 937-8820

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

**NORTH PLAINFIELD** — The American Red Cross of Greater Union County and Plainfield Area holds a blood drive at Holy Cross Episcopal Church 9 a.m. (908) 353-2500

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — St. Peter's University Hospital offers a course on babysitting for teenage boys and girls 1:15 p.m. (732) 745-8699

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28

**EDISON** — The American Red Cross of Greater Union County and Plainfield holds a blood drive at the Edison Firehouse 2 p.m. (908) 353-2500

## An inspirational day for the Better Tomorrows Foundation

**NEW YORK** — The Better Tomorrows Foundation's (BTF) Silent Sports Auction, recently held at the St. Moritz, signaled the beginning of a successful new horizon. Aaron Jones, Founder/President of BTF and Senior Manager with NFL Properties' Club marketing department, shared an intimate and emotional moment with an audience full of friends, supporters and die-hard sports fans as he expressed his appreciation for their support.

Gerry Cooney, former heavyweight boxer, Mo Lewis of the NY Jets and Sean Jones, former San Francisco 49ers, were some of the athletes that attended in support of the foundation. BTF auctioned an array of items including a weekend getaway at the Biltmore Hotel in Miami for \$1,000, the highly sought after Muhammad Ali on the ropes photo taken after his win against Sonny Liston for \$2,150 and the memorable autographed 1998 World Series Champions NY Yankees team bat for \$1,450.

Inspired by the tragic incident that left his brother paralyzed, Jones became personally involved with the public auction about the very little resources available to patients.

"BTF was conceived and inspired after my brother Bob was stricken in an unprovoked attack that resulted in his paralysis," Jones said. "I wanted to utilize the relationships I have developed over the years to benefit Bob and other people with paralysis-related injuries. It is my hope that the Better Tomorrows Foundation can be there to assist them in overcoming the obstacles they face everyday as a result of their injuries."

According to Jones, the non-profit foundation was set up to be a clearinghouse for



Le' Aaron Jones, founder of BTF, former heavyweight Champion Gerry Cooney, New York Jets linebacker Mo Lewis are joined with Jones's brother Robert Johnson, who is confined to a wheelchair and mother access to medical financial and emotional support information. Through the foundation, BTF will provide information about paralysis agencies, hospital and care institutions, emotional and psychological support resources, and available financial assistance.

The Better Tomorrows Foundation, Inc. (the Foundation), was formed on January 11, 1999 under the provisions of the Maryland General Corporation Law. The Foundation has three principal purposes:

"To educate the public on

## Spouses of heart disease patients face high risks

## NORTH BRUNSWICK

Women whose husbands are recovering from heart attacks or open heart surgery may have a significantly increased risk of cardiovascular disease themselves, according to a study presented recently at the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions.

"Currently, all of our attention centers on the heart attack patient's need to lower his or her risk factors in order to avoid disease progression," says Lynn C. Macken, R.N., M.A., coordinator of cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation at Regional West Medical Center in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. "This study indicates that targeting the spouse of the patient may be important, too."

The researchers studied a group of 170 men who recently had a heart attack or had undergone coronary bypass surgery for blockages in heart arteries. Approximately two months after the heart attack or heart surgery, the patient and his wife separately answered questionnaires on heart disease risk factors. The researchers analyzed the degree to which spouses shared risk factors, either good or bad.

"What we are seeing is that the wives of heart attack patients have risk factors similar to their husbands," Macken says. "In some cases, the women's risk factors were even higher than their husbands, which is particularly alarming because the women tended to be younger than their husbands and were not being screened for potential heart diseases."

In many cases, one risk factor shared between spouses was high body mass index (BMI), a measure of body fat. A BMI of 25 to 29.9 is defined as overweight while a BMI above 30 is considered obese. Macken's group found that in 76 percent of the couples, at least one person was overweight or obese. Both partners were overweight or obese in 50 of the couples. Only 40 couples shared normal BMI levels.

In addition, in only 78 of the 170 couples did both members know their current cholesterol level.

There were also similarities in current and past smoking histories and exercise levels, indicating other ways spouses share a high-risk lifestyle, Macken says.

Twice as many women as men continued to smoke following the male patient's heart attack or other coronary event. In addition, fewer women were exercising compared to men.

"If we want to lower risk factors for patients, the change will have to begin at home and we have to be aware that both spouses may be in need of treatment," she says.

"In our own program, we invite the spouses to participate. Although some spouses do participate, we don't measure their risks and we don't counsel the spouses individually," she says.

"We need to think of new ways to inform and educate spouses, to give them a health risk appraisal and urge them to make lifestyle changes of their own and to seek treatment if necessary."

## Exhibition reflects the struggles and triumphs of women living with HIV

## MORRISTOWN — Women

First A Reflection on Women Living with HIV, on view January 16-March 19, 2000 at The Morris Museum, portrays the struggles and triumphs of women living with HIV through a moving exhibition of 31 black and white photographs.

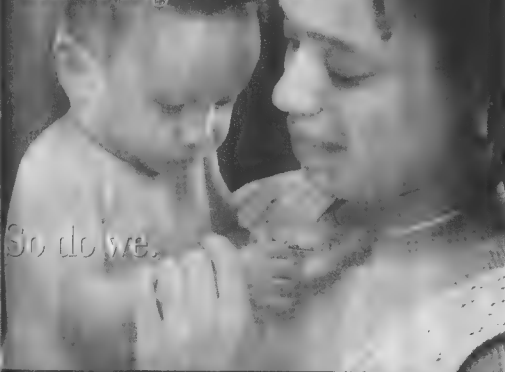
When First was also the name of a clinical trial developed by Agouron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. to investigate the effects of HIV protease inhibitors exclusively in women. Sixteen women who took part in the clinical trial agreed to permit physician/photographer Art Myers to document their lives. With every day of their progress expressed vividly in each photograph, one thing shines through each of the women have their eyes on the future - some plan to continue their education, others enjoy motherhood, and each is taking steps toward independence.

"The incidence of HIV has nearly doubled within the last 10 years among women in the United States, making AIDS one of the top killers of women aged 25-44," explains Executive Director Steven Khindt. "This makes Women First particularly poignant and timely."

Myers is a physician specializing in public health and preventative medicine. Although largely self-taught in photography, he has studied it workshops with Sally Mann, Annie Newman, Larry Fink and Joyce Tenneson. Prior photography series by Myers have included a study of women in an urban rescue mission and one of breast cancer survivors. The latter series also resulted in a book entitled Winged Victory: Altered Images, Transcending Breast Cancer. The Morris Museum For information, call 973/538-0454.

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# Medicine

December 6 — December 14, 1999

## Ginuwine shows "100%" his longevity with new album, fragrances

By Robert E. Williams  
Staff Writer

He's humble. He's real. He's genuine. He's Ginuwine. Actions speak louder than words, and in a time where many recording stars realize image is everything for their careers, some make sure to establish how "real" or "grounded" they want observers to think they are.

And the true dilly on this Washington D.C. native was soon revealed as this interviewed comedian in New Era studios in New York City. In between a photo shoot for the cover of "Black Elegance" magazine Ginuwine while listening to Dru Hill and doing his version of the dance the group did in its "Tell Me" video, it became apparent why he calls himself the "same Ol G."

My name is Ginuwine and I try to stay genuine as I can be. I sing from my heart, I want people to know that. If I am going to almost cry, then I am going to go ahead and cry. If I feel good about something, I am going to sing about it. If I feel angry about it, I am going to sing about it. But it's all real. That's the emotion you hear in my voice," said, the 550/Sony Music recording artist

during an interview at the photo shoot.

Adorned in slick black leather pants, a silk black shirt, and his corrowes (he said he was getting tired of the pretty boy look), Ginuwine posed for the magazine cover with the next Revlon cover model, Barbados Islander Lene Hall, just one of his many projects keeping him busy.

He is busy promoting his latest album, "100% Ginuwine," and is enjoying its platinum success with his single "None of Ur Business" rading the airwaves over with the next Revlon cover model, Barbados Islander Lene Hall, just one of his many projects keeping him busy.

Basically it's this second album the same thing (as the first) as far as relationships go, telling both sides of the story. This time I wrote more on it. It is more genuine. All the situations on the album in some way have something to do with me.

In addition to touring for this album, he recently completed another soundtrack single (Same Ol G is on the Dr. Dre/Delite sound track), this time for "The Best Man" soundtrack singing with close friend Tyrese, Case, and R.L. of the group Next.

The reason why we just did



Ginuwine

the video was because of the response we've been getting from the radio play of the song. Obviously there are people out there who want to see us do some other things together. Companies go for ads if records get played like crazy so they were basically forced to do it, so I just told them [R.L., Case, and Tyrese] we need to think of a name for the group man, because I know that's what we are [eventually] going to do.

Ginuwine is also preparing for his line of men's and women's fragrance, in conjunction with Byron Barnes of Byron Barnes Collectibles to be released early next year.

"I wanted to do something that was different from what other artists were doing. I haven't heard of any other artists doing it, but I'm pretty sure after I do it there will be others. There's a lot of competition, but I thought me coming out with a fragrance would be totally different and not expected."

Ginuwine also planned as the spokesperson for Planned Parenthood, a national organization that educates the public on sex and consequences of it.

"I know when you're young it was very hard to talk to my par-

ents...it just felt funny I feel I did not want kids to feel that way. I want kids to feel that they can talk to someone and it's better coming from a person who has experience of having a kid (as a young father), and knows the role.

"I feel its our responsibility, those in the entertainment industry, to go back and tell them even though I talk about this, this is how you should handle this."

He also signed a modeling contract with Ford Modeling Agency and plans to appear in upcoming commercial and television projects.

"I just love to stay busy. This is not the time for me to sit on my butt. Even though I get tired a lot, I am not going to change because when there is business to be taken care of, I definitely do it. Later on down the line, I don't want to turn around and say 'man I should have did this' and be broke at the same time."

"That's why I try to go down so many avenues. I'm not a weak person, but I do have a love for this [music] so much. It was to get taken from under me at this point right now where I don't have anything else to venture out to. I don't think I would last."

## Music Reviews

### Luther Vandross Greatest Hits

Luther Vandross Greatest Hits (Legacy/Sony Records)

After twenty years in the business, there is no better way to reflect on his stellar career than making this album.

Such hits like "Never Too Much," "Don't Want to Be a Fool," and "A House Is Not a Home" are just a few of the songs on this album that will transport you back to the days when you first heard his velvet smooth voice accompanied by romantic music tracks.

Other music featured on the album includes his duet "There's Nothing Better Than Love" with Gregory. He is just a few of the songs on this album that will transport you back to the days when you first heard his velvet smooth voice accompanied by romantic music tracks.



Gerald Vaseley Love Letters (Heads Up International)

Gerald Vaseley latest album is a mellow and upbeat compilation in which he highlights his amazing skill as a contemporary jazz guitarist. The album overall has a very upbeat feel that allows for every song to be stellar production.

Some of the standouts among these mood setting tracks include "Fading West," a uptempo light selection that sets the tone for most of the album. "Optimistic" provides a bass-driven harmony with a soothing cello-like beat. "Valdez in the Country" and Vaseley's stringing a Mexican-like melody mixed with an R&B feel.

Other songs to listen to include "Spritz," "Everblue," and "Love Letters," and "Be Sweet."

## MUSIC NOTES

### Michael Jackson to star in movie as Edgar Allan Poe

Michael Jackson will play Edgar Allan Poe in a movie that became filming in the Fall season of 2000, a coming to launch comic report

Gary L. Paduany, the producer of the upcoming movie entitled "The Nightmare of Edgar Allan Poe," confirmed Jackson for the role in the film, which is based on a story by Philip Levine, set during the week before Poe dies.

Poe, whose Gothic writing including stories like "The Fall of the House of Usher" is said to have become deranged after the death of his wife. It is believed he died of "acute congestion of the brain" working on his unfinished tale, "Eureka," but many scholars believed he may have died from rabies.

Jackson's past movies role have included the 1978 hit "The Wiz," a recreation of "The Wizard of Oz." Known for his elaborate videos, he made a long form production for his "Bad" album called "Moonwalker," starring opposite Joe Pesci, which has become a 3D film at Walt Disney theme parks.



Photo courtesy of NAACP

### Mariah Carey film project headed to production

"All That Glitters," is set to head to production very soon. Sony Pictures is currently in negotiations with actor-director Wendie Curtis-Hall to lead the project.

The project will be Carey's second film, after making her debut with Chris O'Donnell in "The Bachelor," and is set to be in theaters in the summer of 2000.

The movie will be about a singer who grew up as an orphan

in the projects and lands a record deal, and becomes famous.

Curtis-Hall, who just made an appearance in "Pras" ("John Superstar"), has also appeared in "Romeo and Juliet," "Sugar Hill," "Fie's Bayou," "Broken Arrow," "Crescent," and "Coming to America." He also made his directorial debut in "Gridlock" starring the late Tupac Shakur and Tim Roth.

### Brandy Cancels Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree Appearance

Brandy cancelled her scheduled appearance at last week's Rockefeller Center Christmas tree lighting ceremony held at Rockefeller Plaza in New York City. Although no official reason was cited, many feel it could be linked to her recent collapse from exhaustion last month that required her to be rushed to a Southern California hospital. She has since returned to the set of her show "Moesha."

### Tupac Shakur set to release another posthumous album

The estate of Tupac Shakur is set to release another album from the late rapper's recordings. The album, "Still I Rise," is expected to be released December 21 on Arista/Interscope Records. The first single is expected to be "Baby Don't Lie" (Keep Ya Head Up II) with a video expected to follow.

### Outkast responds to Rosa Parks lawsuit

A Michigan judge dismissed the Rosa Parks' slander lawsuit against Outkast, which dealt with the song dedicated to her for her impact on black history. The song, called "Rosa Parks" (Keep Ya Head Up II) with a video expected to follow.

Outkast responded to the case in the following statement as reported by Vibe Magazine Online: "We are pleased that our freedom of speech was not compromised, but it is still saddened that Ms. Parks' lawyers felt the need to take this to court. Our intentions were never to defame her name, as we respect Ms. Parks and all that she has done for our people and this country. We plan on putting this behind us and to continue making hit music for people of all races and ages to listen to."

1999-2000 SEASON

## NIPAC

1999 KWANZAA FESTIVAL

THU DEC 16 - SAT DEC 18

NIPAC's annual Kwanzaa Festival includes exhibits to community elders, musical and dance performances and a FREE FAMILY FUN DAY on Thursday Dec 16. Special guest artists Unga and Umoja Dance Companies. Ages 8 & up

Call 1-888-GO-NIPAC for details

## SAVION GLOVER IN CONCERT

FOOTNOTES with special guests Jimmy Slyde, Buster Brown and Corrier Williams

SAT DEC 18 at 8:00

Newborn's own Savion Glover, Tony Award-winner and one of today's most celebrated dance masters, has redefined his art of tap. From his Broadway debut in The Tap Dance Kid to his recent triumph as choreographer and star of Bring in da Noise, Bring in da Funk, Glover has become known worldwide for his outrageous energy and artistry.

Prudential Hall • Tickets \$46, \$40, \$35, \$24, \$17, \$10

COMING SOON

THE MURDER MACK ON THE St. Petersburg State Ballot On for Wed Dec 27 at 7:30 Thu Dec 23 at 7:30

STUTTGART BALLET Sat Jan 8 at 8:00 Sat Jan 22 at 8:00

NEW WORLDS/NEW MUSICS featuring Eddie Palmieri with Ismael Quintana Jimmy Bosch and The Masters Marile Joao and Mario Leguina Sat Jan 22 at 8:00

DIXIE LEE HARRIS counterpoint KEVIN SHARPE piano Sat Feb 13 at 8:00

BILL T. JONES In The Breathing Show Solo performance Fri Feb 19 at 7:30 Sat Feb 19 at 7:30 Sun Feb 20 at 7:30

Urban Bush Women and National Song and Dance Company of Mozambique Fri Mar 24 at Sat Mar 25 at 7:30 Sun Mar 26 at 2:30

Awadagin Pratt, piano Sun Apr 16 at 3:00

## REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION

with the NIPAC Jubilation Choir

WED JAN 12 at 7:00

NIPAC's third annual celebration of the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prudential Hall • Tickets: Adult \$25, Child \$12

Pre-performance reception + \$30 (does not include performance ticket)

## ART ENSEMBLE OF CHICAGO & WORLD SAXOPHONE QUARTET

SUN JAN 16 at 3:00

An evening of world-class jazz featuring a rare double bill. The New York Times calls the World Saxophone Quartet "a compound of Horace Silver, David Murray, Oliver Lake and John Purcell — the most original and important group to emerge since Miles Davis, Ornette Coleman and John Coltrane redefined group improvisation in the 1950s." For over two decades, the Art Ensemble of Chicago — which includes, among others, Roscoe Mitchell, Andrew Thomas and Famoudou Konate — has been on the cutting edge of jazz.

Prudential Hall • Tickets \$46, \$40, \$35, \$24, \$17, \$10

## LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO with The Mighty Clouds of Joy

SAT JAN 29 at 8:00

Lady Smith Black Mambazo, a group praised the world over for its performances of traditional South African music, makes its NIPAC debut. First popularized in the U.S. by their work on Paul Simon's acclaimed Graceland album, Ladysmith Black Mambazo — the number one record selling group in Africa — has already won a Grammy as well as legions of fans around the globe. Also appearing is the gospel ensemble The Mighty Clouds of Joy, praised worldwide for its inspirational recordings and live performances.

Prudential Hall • Tickets \$46, \$40, \$35, \$24, \$17, \$10

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# Billboard

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — The Crossroads Theater presents the musical "Play On." Call (973) 583-0169 for information.

**MADISON** — The New Jersey Shakespeare Festival presents the holiday family musical "A Child's Christmas in Wales" at the F.M. Kirby Shakespeare Theater, 8 p.m. (973) 408-3807.

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — The Rutgers Theater Company presents its production of the 1929 musical "The Threepenny Opera" at the Lyric Theater through Dec. 12. 8 p.m. (732) 632-7511.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

**NEW YORK** — WKFS-FM (98.7 KIIS) presents its annual "KIIS Cares Concert" starring Model Jordan, Smiley Robinson, The Spinners and Chico DeBarge at Madison Square Garden. 7:30 p.m. Call (212) 242-9670 for information.

**NEW YORK** — Paul Winter's 20th Anniversary winter solstice holiday celebration comes to The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine through Dec. 11. Call (914) 255-2824 for information.

**PISCATAWAY** — The Alliance Repertory Theater presents its production of Edward Pulitzer Prize winning play "The Merchant of Venice" through Dec. 18. 8 p.m. (732) 296-1314.

**NEWARK** — Club E presents jazz band The Affix, part of the Thursday Jazz, 8 p.m. (973) 642-2244.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

**RAHWAY** — The Arts Guild of Rahway presents "Jazz '99" featuring many others. The Show All Stars. 8 p.m. (732) 381-7511.

**NEW YORK** — Veteran actor Keith Davis brings his cabaret act to the Hotel Delmonico through Dec. 15. 9:30 p.m. (212) 333-7400.

**WOODBURGE** — The Woodbridge Township Cultural Arts Commission of the Barron Arts Center presents an unique gospel concert featuring the St. Benedict's Prep choir and choir at St. James Roman Catholic Church. 7:30 p.m. (732) 634-0413.

**NEWARK** — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJ-PAC) presents comedian Bernie Mac. 7:30 p.m. 1-(888)-GO-NJPAC.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — The State Theater presents American Repertory Ballet production of "The Nutcracker" through Dec. 12. Call (732) 249-1254 for information.

**PLAINFIELD** — Rose of Sharon Community Church presents the holiday musical performance "The Night the Angels Sang" featuring the Rose of Sharon Mass Choir. 8 p.m. (908) 561-9070.

**BROOKLYN, NY** — The Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) presents The Roots, N'Que, Davenport, PM Dawn and Vernon Reid. 7:30 p.m. (718) 636-4194.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

**NEWARK** — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJ-PAC) and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra presents opera singer Samuel Ramey. 3 p.m. 1-(888)-GO-NJPAC.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

**SUMMIT** — The Summit Chorale presents its annual community Messiah sing at the Central Presbyterian Church. 8 p.m. (973) 782-8486.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

**WATCHING** — The Watching Arts Center presents vocalists Barbara Lee and pianist Keith Ingham. 8 p.m. (908) 733-0190.

**NEWARK** — Club E presents jazz band Inner Spirit, part of Thursday Jazz. 8 p.m. (973) 642-2244.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

**NEW YORK** — The Beacon Theater presents Bobby Catwell and Patti Austin. 8 p.m. (212) 495-7070.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

**SUMMIT** — The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders presents "Angels Gather Near" in an evening of carols and spirituals for the holiday season starring The Concord Singers and special guest the Newark Boys Chorus School Apprentice Chorus at St. John's Lutheran Church. 7 p.m. (908) 464-0592.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

**TRENTON** — The War Memorial Theater presents the award winning production of Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker." 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. (732) 246-1254.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

**NEW YORK** — Mid-American Productions presents bassist Eugene Levinson at the Wall Rectal Hall located inside Carnegie Hall. 8 p.m. (212) 230-4559.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

**NEW YORK** — Mid-American Productions presents pianist Jonathan Fieldman, violinist Toby Appel, and percussionist Daniel Drumman at Wall Rectal Hall located inside Carnegie Hall. 8 p.m. (212) 230-0205.

# Ella Fitzgerald's life is revisited in television tribute

Her first dream was to be a dancer.

Growing up in Yonkers, New York, she was inspired by "Snake Hips" Tucker; she studied his serpentine moves and practiced them constantly with friends. Then, one fateful night at the Apollo Theater in 1934, the headlining Edwards Sisters brought down the house with their dancing. Amateur Hour began immediately after, and a 16-year-old Ella Fitzgerald stepped onstage—but was too intimidated to dance. Instead, she sang "Judy," silenced the awestruck crowd, and won first prize. It was the beginning of one of the most celebrated careers in music history.

From orphaned child on Harlem streets to the upper stratosphere of musical fame, Ella Fitzgerald's life was the quintessential American success story. Through 58 years of performing, 13 Grammys and more than 40 million records sold, she elevated swing, bebop, ballads, and the blues to their highest potential. She was, undeniably, the First Lady of Song.

Now, American Masters has been granted the exclusive access to the estate of Ella Fitzgerald, who died in 1996 at the age of 78, to make the first full-length documentary portrait of the legendary singer. "Ella



Ella Fitzgerald

Fitzgerald - Something to Live For - a 90-minute biography by Thirteen/WNET New York and written and directed by Charlotte Zwerin premieres nationally on PBS Friday, December 10 at 9 p.m.

on PBS

Thanks to unprecedented

access to vast archives of film and video throughout the country and around world, "Ella Fitzgerald - Something to Live For" contains the most comprehensive collection of Ella performances ever seen," said executive producer Susan Lacy. "This

expansive concert footage - along with interviews with her son Ray Brown Jr., friends, and colleagues and extensive photography from Decca and Verve - has turned "Ella Fitzgerald - Something to Live For" into a virtual mecca for

both Ella and jazz fans alike."

The program follows Ella from her first awkward childlike performance to her mature ability to hold 20,000 people in the palm of her hand. After viewing more than 60 hours of performance footage for research, writer/director Charlotte Zwerin concluded, "Ella was good from the start and she just got better and better."

"I'm very shy, and I shy away from people," Ella once said. "But the moment I hit the stage, it's a different feeling. I get nerve from somewhere, maybe it's because it's something I love to do."

Throughout "Ella Fitzgerald - Something to Live For" we see Ella doing what she loved. Her inimitable voice glides effortlessly to each note through such standards as "It Don't Mean A Thing," "S Wonderful," "Lush Life," "Sweet Georgia Brown," and more. The film also spotlights her exciting collaborations with other stellar performers: riffing on children's songs with Bing Crosby, recording albums with Louis Armstrong, joking with Jimmy Durante through "Bill Bailey," living it up with Nat King Cole on the piano in "It's All Right With Me," swinging with Frank Sinatra to "Lady Is a Tramp," along with many others.

# "A Walk Through Harlem" reveals untold city culture



Attallah Shabazz

Having travelled 42nd Street and trekked up Broadway, David Hartman and Barry Lewis have hit the streets again, and this time they have discovered a vibrant tapestry of American culture, politics, religion, and society - all within a three-mile radius in upper Manhattan.

The latest episode of Thirteen's acclaimed video walking tour series brings these two long-time New Yorkers to the heart of Harlem and face-to-face with many of the people who have made or witnessed history there. A unique exploration of Harlem's past and present, "A Walk Through Harlem with David Hartman and Historian Barry Lewis" is a production of Thirteen/WNET New York in association with the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture - premiered December 7.

"Harlem has always been a multi-cultural crossroads of ideas and dreams, from its earliest days as home to Dutch farmers and African slaves to the burgeoning commercial, residential, and artistic and spiritual hub it is today. In this 100 minute special, host David Hartman and tour guide Barry Lewis explore landmarks and events that make up the story of this dynamic 350-year-old community."

Archival, historical and New York City expert Barry Lewis said "Everyone has heard of Harlem, but most people don't

realize it's really one of New York's great undiscovered treasures. It's a community that is not just about black history - it's about American history."

"A Walk Through Harlem" begins where most tourist maps leave off - north of Central Park, in Marcus Garvey Park and through the Mount Morris historic district. Hartman and Lewis visit 125th Street, the commercial core of Harlem, and 135th Street, the community's longtime center of political thought and activity. They travel through Hamilton Heights and its chic Sugar Hill section, home to Duke Ellington, Thurgood Marshall, Joe Louis, Ralph Ellison, and other cultural and social luminaries.

Their steps include landmark churches, the Morris-Jumel Mansion, Strivers' Row, the Studio Museum in Harlem, and even the vacant space that was the site of the Division of Motor Vehicles building, where Alvin Ailey's Theater once echoed with the sounds of the legendary big bands.

Along the way, distinguished guests give their first-hand accounts of significant chapters in Harlem's history. Hartman and Lewis stop to speak with Marcus Garvey Jr. about his father's mission to lead the "New Negro" into an era of self-pride, and with Attallah Shabazz as she shares memories of her father, Malcolm X, whom she knew as a young empathetic dad.

# 14-year-old actor writes and produces own television special



Michael J. Pagan

While most 14-year-olds kids are worrying about homework and who they are going to hang with after school, actor Michael J. Pagan is making moves in the entertainment industry as an up and coming actor and producer.

Pagan, best known for his starring role in a Disney Channel movie called "Up, Up and Away," co-starring Robert Townsend and Sherman Hemsley. Pagan plays a 13-year-old who is anxiously waiting to acquire super powers that run in his family.

In addition to starring in this movie, Pagan is producing a story he wrote and will air as a

television special "In Search of A Dream."

"In Search of A Dream" is about a boy who wants to make it into the NBA very much, but he is not that good. He day dreams often and that is when he learns the important things about basketball and life.

"He learns in fun ways that a champion is a champion before stepping on the court," Pagan said.

Pagan has amassed commitments from many well known people, including Shaquille O'Neal, Sherman Hemsley, Darius McCrary, Glynn Turman, Rolonda Watts and NBA legend Kareem Abdul Jabbar. Proceeds from the television special will be donated to various athletic charities.

# Bernie Mac to appear at NJPAC

Comedian Bernie Mac is scheduled to perform Friday night at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. The performance will take place at 7:30 p.m. December 18 with special guest Anthony Griffith.

Mac is best known for his role as the uncle in the television show "Moesha" starring Brandy, and for his supporting roles in many movies, including "Life." For more information call 1-888-GO-NJPAC.

New Jersey PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

in association with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Beta Alpha Omega Chapter and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority present the

THIRD ANNUAL

# KWANZAA

FESTIVAL & MARKETPLACE

HONORING A HERITAGE • DECEMBER 16 - 18, 1999

**KWANZAA MARKETPLACE**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

December 16-17 • 5:00-10:00pm  
December 18 • 12:00-10:00pm  
Prudential Hall Lobby

**MARKETPLACE OPENING CELEBRATION**

December 17 • 5:00-10:00pm

Join us for a jazz concert featuring The Bradford Haves Sextet while you browse through a vendor's marketplace featuring jewelry, books, art and other items.

**FREE FAMILY FUN DAY**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Saturday, December 18

**ARTS AND KRAFTS VILLAGE**

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NJPAC Gift Shop • 12:00pm - 5:00pm

Co-sponsored by the North Jersey Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority

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Ballet/Ballet Barre • 3:30-5:00pm

**KWANZAA TRADITIONS**

Learn about Kwanzaa Traditions from our Artists.

From North Jersey Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority

Community Room • 1:30-4:00pm

**STORY ROOM**

Listen to African tales from our storytellers featuring Denise Howell-Brister and Patricia Senogor and Rosalind Alphonso.

Parsonage Room • 1:30 and 3:00pm

Friday, December 17

**OPENING CELEBRATION & CEREMONY**

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Reception at the Renaissance Ballroom Hall at 5:00-6:00pm

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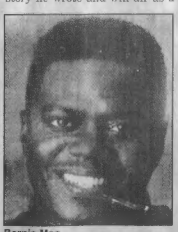
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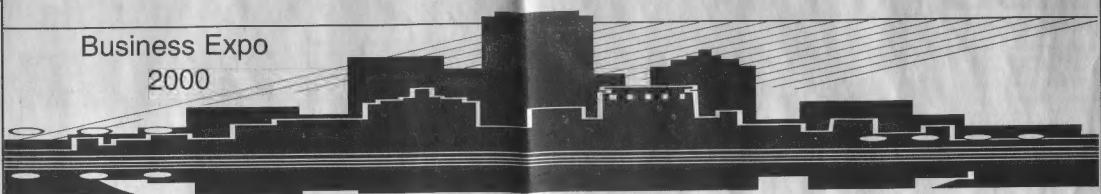
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PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that sealed proposals will be received by the Housing Authority of the Town of Morristown (hereinafter called the Authority), in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, at the Administration Office of the Authority, located at 31 Early St., Morristown, NJ 07960, on January 7, 2000 at 10:30 a.m., prevailing time. All bids will be opened publicly and read aloud at that time, for a single complete contract. The Authority reserves the right to waive any informalities in bids and to reject any and all bids if it is in the best interest of the Authority to do so.

All work incidental thereto, in accordance with specifications.

Bids must be accompanied by a certified check or Bid Bond in the following amounts:

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up to \$200,000	10%
\$200,000 - \$400,000	\$20,000
over \$400,001	5%

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The Contract Documents are on file and can be obtained at the Administrative Office of the Authority. DOCUMENTS WILL NOT BE MAILED.

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David Gardner, Executive Director

Morristown Housing Authority

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#### GRAPHIC LAYOUT PERSON

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Newark, NJ - To assist production in scanning & editing type, includes some layout & telephone work. Must have great organizational & computer skills, to meet deadlines & multi-task oriented. Immediate opening. Salary: Commensurate with skills. Send or fax your resume to: City News Publishing Co., 111 Mulberry St., Suite 1F, Newark, NJ 07102. Fax (973) 642-5444

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ADVERTISE IN CITY NEWS

# Master P takes on the Trenton Shooting Stars

In its September issue, Fortune Magazine ranked rapper/music mogul Perry "Master P" Miller among the 40 richest people under 40 years-old in America. Only two African-Americans were on the list—Michael Jordan, whose \$357,000,000 earned him a ranking of 29th, and Miller, whom Fortune ranked just ahead of Jordan at 28th with an estimated net worth of \$361,000,000.

Greg Moore

Last week, the wealthiest brother under 40 arrived in Trenton as a member of International Basketball League's San Diego Sting Rays. The Sting Rays took on and lost to the Trenton Shooting Stars 120-130 as Miller shot an un-masterful 4-15 from the field. Miller finished the game with 12 points and 4 assists.

Can Master P play? Sure he can, I'd be the first to pick him up on any CYO league or YMCA pickup-game in America. But can he play in the NBA? No way. Surprisingly, P was into the fact that the Toronto Raptors made the flamboyant rapper one of its final cuts during its most recent pre-season camp. Miller thought he played well enough to earn a roster spot and was not shy about expressing his desire. Miller recently remarked, "I know I'm better than the 10th or 12th man (on most NBA teams)."

Truth be told, P's not even close. Everybody in the NBA can play. E-V-E-R-Y-B-O-D-Y. Most 11th and 12th men in the NBA were All-Americans and All-America's, not walk-on college men in college as was Miller at the University of Houston. Make no mistake about it, the Knicks' Rick Brunson and other players of his ilk at the end of benches throughout the NBA would dominate either the IBL or CBA and destroy Master P (who was torched for a career high 34 points by Trenton's Dennis Edwards).

My intent here is not to deride or player-hate Percy Miller. Quite the contrary. Interestingly enough, it is the fulfillment of Miller's NBA quest which provides a compelling explanation for Master P's stunning success story. Very simply, Miller believes he can accomplish anything. Miller's belief isn't exactly baseless. Here's a guy from one of the toughest housing projects in Louisiana, who parlayed a \$10,000 insurance settlement into a \$200,000,000 empire, which encompasses music, film, sports management and 19000 phone line business ventures. Will Miller become rap's version of Leonardo Da Vinci?

After the game, I asked Miller about the difficulties of juggling a basketball career with a slew of companies worth over a quarter-of-a-billion dollars, the renaissance man of rap good, people working for me and handling things when I'm on the road. Some people choose to spend their free time hanging out, drinking and getting high. I don't do any of those things. I play basketball and chase the dream."

Perhaps Miller may not ever develop into a NBA caliber player. But he's definitely a role model who eschews drug use, has amassed an enormous amount of money and single-mindedly pursues his life goals without regard to the long odds against him or skeptical criticism from pundits like myself. Sure I'd be shocked if he made it to the big show, but Miller's been shocking observers for a some time now.

If you have any comments, e-mail it to [GregMoore@Excite.com](mailto:GregMoore@Excite.com)

# North-South Jersey grudge match highlights NCAA Div. III playoffs

By Carl Chase and William Frazier

Going into the NCAA Tournament against Montclair State University for the first time, Rowan University griders last week were planning to avenge the 28-24 loss MSU handed them on Nov. 13. The two teams have squared off 39 times outside the playoffs.

And both were fighting to survive so they could go on to battle the winner of the Dec. 4 Division III quarterfinal game that pits 11-1 Ohio Northern and undefeated Mount Union.

Montclair won the New Jersey Athletic Conference championship on Rowan's home field in Glassboro Nov. 13.

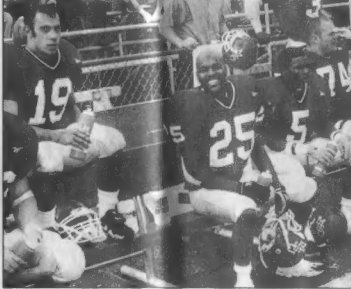
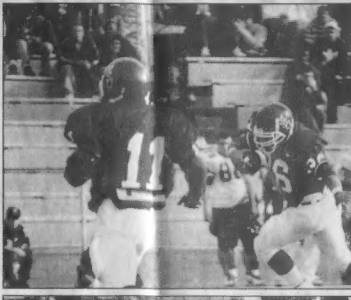
"Now we want to... I hate to use 'revenge,'" said Rowan Coach K.C. Keeler, "but to sort of redeem ourselves." We're looking forward to the challenge."

"People put in our mouths that you beat them, you beat them in a bigger game," he said. "But they beat us in our place and they are the champs, (so) that's a huge game."

The matchup promised a tough, defensive game. MSU Coach Rick Giacalone said, "I hate to use the old football cliché, but the little things—turnovers, the kicking game—they will all have an impact on the outcome."

"The players are anxious. If they could avoid practicing and go right to the game, they would."

He said while the Red Hawks don't have to prove themselves worthy of the title they hold, "That thought is there. We feel we've accomplished something very few have been able to, and you've got to show we could do it."



On Nov. 23, the Red Hawks had avenged its only regular season loss to Western Connecticut. On Nov. 28 when cornerbacks Mark Hall and hit on Connecticut running



back Miguel Pickering loomed the score to 32-30. Hall's hit backed Rowan all the way up to the 5-yard line and the turnover by Montclair's

first-round playoff victory against Buffalo State, Montclair's Joe D'Amico made MSU history in his first game as a starter when the freshman ran the ball for a school-record 193 yards, and tied another school record with three touchdowns.

## ECC student scores at Nets game



NEWARK — Newark resident Onisha Yarborough, a freshman at Essex County College, is the recipient of a \$4,000 scholarship from the New Jersey Nets Foundation.

Yarborough, a Physical Therapist Assistant major at the college, received her scholarship at a halftime ceremony during a game between the Nets and Philadelphia held at the Continental Airlines Arena last month. She is the first of an expected three ECC students who will receive the \$4,000 scholarship during the 1999-2000 Nets season. The scholarship is to be disbursed over four years of schooling.

A 1999 graduate of Westquah High School, in Newark, Yarborough plans to become a licensed physical therapist to provide low cost health services to disadvantaged people. She is also involved in feeding the homeless, as well as distributing food, clothing and school supplies to local disadvantaged families.

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